United Nations E/C.19/2009/5

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
25 March 2009

Original: English

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Eighth session
New York, 18-29 May 2009
Item 7 of the provisional agenda*
Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues of the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues

The extent to which climate change policies and projects adhere to the standards set forth in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Concept note submitted by the Permanent Forum Special Rapporteurs

1. Indigenous peoples, in various gatherings around the world, have expressed concern at being excluded from the development of national policies and programmes on climate change. They have also expressed their concern over the course of the international dialogue in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[1] and at being denied the opportunity to participate in that dialogue. Cognizant of those concerns, the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues appointed, at its sixth session,[2] Victoria Tauli-Corpuz and Aqquluk Lynge as Special Rapporteurs to prepare a report on the impact of climate change mitigation measures on indigenous peoples and on their territories and lands, to be submitted to the Permanent Forum at its seventh session (E/C.19/2008/10).

2. Also at its sixth session, the Permanent Forum designated "Climate change, biocultural diversity and livelihoods: the stewardship role of indigenous peoples and new challenges" as the special theme of its seventh session.[3] At its seventh session, the Permanent Forum decided to appoint, without financial implications, Hassan Id Balkassm and Paimaneh Hasteh, members of the Permanent Forum, as Special Rapporteurs[4] to undertake a study to determine whether climate change policies and projects adhered to the standards in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of

* E/C.19/2009/1.

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[2] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 23* (E/2007/43), para. 52.

[3] Ibid., chap. I, sect. A, draft decision III.

[4] Ibid., *2008, Supplement No. 23* (E/2008/43), para. 126.

Please recycle

Indigenous Peoples.[5] The Permanent Forum also decided that the Human Rights Council expert mechanism on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues should be invited to participate in the study. Further, the Permanent Forum requested Mr. Id Balkassm and Ms. Hasteh to provide the Permanent Forum with an outline of the study at its eighth session and a report thereon at its ninth session.

3. The Special Rapporteurs are of the view that, in accordance with their mandate, the report should include studies and information from all parties concerned with the status of indigenous peoples on the effects of climate change, which threatens their existence, their rights, Government policies and the extent to which those Governments recognize indigenous peoples and their rights and include indigenous peoples in the formulation of climate change policies. This would ensure that the study includes the most salient information on whether national climate change policies adhere to the standards contained in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The present preliminary note has been prepared in response to the request made by the Permanent Forum at its seventh session.

4. The Special Rapporteurs are of the view that the impact of climate change mitigation measures on indigenous peoples and on their territories and lands has highlighted the extent to which climate change threatens indigenous peoples, particularly since the participation of indigenous peoples in the formulation of climate change policies remains deficient.

5. The main principles contained in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples include:

(a) Equality of indigenous peoples in relation to all other peoples;

(b) Freedom from discrimination of any kind in the exercise of indigenous peoples' rights;

(c) Respect for and promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples, as affirmed in treaties and agreements;

(d) Respect for the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples;

(e) Equal rights for indigenous peoples;

(f) Participation of indigenous peoples in all stages of decision-making (planning, decision and execution).

6. The following items will be elaborated on in the main report:

(a) Standards: rights contained in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

(b) Duties and obligations: standards contained in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

(c) Adherence of climate change policies to the standards set forth in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

[5] General Assembly resolution 61/295, annex.

7. Topics to be addressed by the study include the following:

(a) The binding or optional nature of the standards set forth in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

(b) The importance of respecting indigenous peoples' right to self-determination in the context of climate change policies;

(c) Rights relating to lands, natural resources and the role of indigenous peoples in dealing with climate change;

(d) The right to maintain and develop political, legal, economic and social institutions (articles 15-18 and 20 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples);

(e) The right to participate in political life (article 5):

(i) The right to recognize treaties and agreements (article 37);

(ii) Respect for free, prior and informed consent (articles 10, 11 and 19);

(iii) The right to cultural identity (articles 9 and 11-16).

8. Consideration of some of the issues that need to be addressed is essential for the production of a comprehensive study on the extent to which the standards set forth in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples are being observed with respect to climate change. Yet, if the relevant parties were to consider it necessary, there would be no harm in also adding those contributions made in response to this preliminary note and those comments on each of the issues that concern the study marginally or even remotely. We welcome all suggestions and contributions and any recommendations that could enrich this preliminary paper and its themes and result in the production of a satisfactory study — one that will make it possible to gather together and adopt recommendations that serve mankind as it confronts the future in the lap of its mother, the Earth.

9. All responses, contributions and studies should be submitted preferably before the end of August 2009, in order to allow the Rapporteurs sufficient time to consider them and prepare the final report.

United Nations E/C.19/2009/6

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
25 February 2009

Original: English

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Eighth session
New York, 18-29 May 2009
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum

Information received from non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

Tebtebba Foundation

Summary

The present document is a summary of the *report of the International Technical Workshop on Indicators Relevant for Indigenous Peoples*, held in Baguio City, Philippines, from 17 to 19 November 2008.

* E/C.19/2009/1.

09-24951 (E) 180309

Contents

I. Introduction

II. The Workshop

III. Outcomes of the group discussion

IV. Highlights of the plenary discussion

V. Recommendations

Annexes

I. List of participants

II. List of presentations

I. Introduction

1. In a series of regional and thematic workshops held in 2006 and 2007, indigenous peoples' organizations working with the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity,[1] identified core thematic areas for the development of indicators.

2. In 2007, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity organized an International Expert Seminar on Indicators Relevant for Indigenous Peoples, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Millennium Development Goals. Pursuant to this meeting, a set of indicators was proposed for adoption by the Convention on Biological Diversity. Also, the International Labour Organization (ILO) was requested to collaborate on the development of an indicator on traditional occupations.

3. The International Technical Workshop on Indicators Relevant for Indigenous Peoples was organized as a follow-up to the regional, thematic and international workshops. It aimed to bring together key experts from among indigenous peoples, United Nations organizations, researchers and Governments to share experiences, identify datasets, derive lessons and elaborate methodologies and tools to guide further work on indicators at national, regional and local levels.

4. The Technical Workshop was organized by Tebtebba Foundation and the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity Working Group on Indicators and co-sponsored by the ILO programme for the promotion of Convention No. 169 and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, with financial support from the Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional. It was held at Camp John Hay, Baguio City, Philippines, from 17 to 19 November 2008.

5. Participants in the Workshop included indigenous peoples' representatives from Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Nepal, the Philippines, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact; technical experts; representatives of sponsoring international organizations (ILO, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues); and officials of the Governments of Nepal and the Philippines. For a list of the participants, see annex I.

II. The Workshop

6. Joji Carino welcomed the participants on behalf of Tebtebba Foundation and the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity Working Group on Indicators. The opening prayer was performed by Vicky Mackay, founder of the Center for Ibaloi Heritage and Loakan History.

7. Representatives of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, ILO, the Convention on Biological Diversity secretariat and the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity explained their interest in the development of indicators relevant to indigenous peoples. Key issues that they raised included monitoring of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,[2] indicators on

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[2] General Assembly resolution 61/295, annex.

traditional occupations, and indicators on traditional knowledge, innovations and practices.

8. Presentations by the technical experts addressed data collection and analysis at the national level; and development of indicators for specific aspects of traditional knowledge and indigenous peoples' well-being, including traditional occupations, customary sustainable use of land and resources, food security, gender, and rights to ancestral domain. The presentations are listed in annex II.

III. Outcomes of the group discussion

9. The participants were divided into two working groups, one set up to discuss indicators for indigenous peoples' well-being and the other to focus on indicators on traditional knowledge, innovations and practices.

Indigenous peoples' well-being

10. The group that had discussed this issue made the following recommendations on the collection of data in national censuses:

- Identification of indigenous persons in the census should be by self-ascription
- Mother tongue is a useful additional identifier
- Data should be disaggregated for each indigenous group within a country, as the situation and social status of the different indigenous groups can vary considerably
- Grouping in an indigenous category is also helpful (for example, in Canada, respondents are asked whether they belong to an aboriginal group)
- When determining the boundaries of census districts, artificial fragmentation of indigenous peoples' territories should be avoided
- Local enumerators should be used, so as to build trust and improve accuracy
- Members of census coordination boards at different levels (municipal, district, regional, etc.) should include indigenous persons
- Training for enumerators should include not only technical matters, but also gender-sensitivity and sensitivity to indigenous communities
- The census questionnaire should be translated into indigenous languages
- Every effort should be made to include small population groups

11. The group also outlined the steps needed to develop a monitoring framework for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:

- Cluster the rights to be monitored under the five headings within the framework of the United Nations Declaration
- Develop a monitoring framework with structural, process and outcome indicators. The 12 thematic areas identified in the regional and thematic workshops should be taken into account when developing outcome indicators

- Identify sources of data, which could include civil society shadow reports, and observatories for ILO Convention No. 169 (Convention concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries); civil society reporting on indigenous peoples' rights should be encouraged
- Ensure a process for consulting indigenous peoples on the framework
- At national level:
  - Identify the institution in government responsible for implementing the United Nations Declaration and ILO Convention No. 169
  - Identify a constitutional body or independent officer of government to monitor the United Nations Declaration and ILO Convention No. 169; mechanisms for monitoring at country level could be a national human rights commission or a specific commission on indigenous peoples

Traditional knowledge, innovations and practices

12. The discussion focused on two indicators to be proposed for adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2010. Further indicators may be proposed for the post-2010 monitoring framework. It was noted that immediate action on indicators was needed, because the Working Group on Article 8 (j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which addresses traditional knowledge, would be meeting in August 2009.

13. The Workshop group recommended the following:

- The two indicators to be proposed to the Conference of the Parties for adoption should be (a) status and trends of land use in indigenous peoples' territories and (b) status and trends of traditional occupations
- The indicators on traditional occupations should focus on occupations where knowledge of traditional culture and practices may influence the way the work is performed
- A strong gender perspective should be ensured in developing both indicators
- A reference group comprising members of the discussion group should guide further work on these indicators
- ILO, the Convention secretariat and the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity should collaborate on finding a consultant to be charged with refining the description of occupations
- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) should be asked to collect data on status and trends in land (and water) use in indigenous peoples' territories
- The International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity should be asked to reactivate its work on indicators

IV. Highlights of the plenary discussion

14. Reports from the Workshop groups were discussed in a plenary session, which broadly supported the recommendations made and identified the next steps required.

15. It was noted that traditional occupations might be an entry point for addressing issues affecting indigenous peoples in Africa, who defined themselves by their occupations (hunter-gatherers and pastoralists).

16. It was also noted that the indicators on traditional knowledge needed to be tested in different countries, with indigenous communities helping to develop methodologies, before they could be adopted for the Convention on Biological Diversity monitoring framework.

17. Participants from the Institute for Human Development agreed to start work on creating a statistical database on indigenous peoples in different countries, which would draw on national data collections. Data are available in Canada, Australia, China, New Zealand, Latin America and the Arctic.

18. The participants agreed to continue the discussion by circulating a list of questions about different types of indicators; Tebtebba was asked to set up a LISTSERVE.

V. Recommendations

19. **To the Convention on Biological Diversity secretariat:**

- **Locate resources to support work to develop and test indicators for traditional knowledge, innovations and practices**

20. **To the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues:**

- **Develop a framework for monitoring the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**
- **Encourage States to implement the United Nations Declaration by commissioning an expert paper demonstrating that elements of the Declaration are legally binding under various international conventions**
- **Urge the United Nations Statistics Division to recommend that an indigenous identifier, based on self-ascription, be included in national censuses**
- **Request the Statistical Commission to adopt an indigenous identifier to be included in national censuses**
- **Feed data and discussion emerging from work on indicators into the report on the state of the world's indigenous peoples**

21. **To the International Labour Organization:**

- **Identify a consultant to help develop the indicator on traditional occupations and produce guidelines for testing it**

22. **To national Governments:**

- **Report to the Permanent Forum on efforts to implement the United Nations Declaration and the obstacles encountered**
- **Adopt an indigenous identifier, based on self-ascription, in the national census so as to enable disaggregation of data on indigenous peoples**
- **Encourage the Statistical Commission to adopt an indigenous identifier for inclusion in national censuses**

23. **To the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity:**

- **The next global workshop to involve indigenous peoples in work on indicators should pay particular attention to gender and indigenous women**
- **Compile a list of lessons learned through testing of monitoring tools**
- **Establish a task force to work on adjusting the human development index so that it better reflects the well-being of indigenous peoples and takes account of indigenous concepts of well-being**
- **Activate the regional focal points of the Working Group on Indicators, so as to provide a support network for indigenous peoples' organizations working on indicators**
- **Produce a second volume of the resource book on indicators relevant to indigenous peoples**

24. **To indigenous peoples' organizations:**

- **Lobby the Statistical Commission to adopt an indigenous identifier to be included in national censuses**
- **Contact organizations working on biodiversity to ensure that they are sensitive to indigenous peoples' issues**
- **Establish national advisory groups to support indigenous peoples' organizations, provide a bridge between the indigenous movement and national and international bodies, and identify key collaborators**

Annex I

List of participants

Cambodia

Pheap Sochea, Cambodia Indigenous Youth Association

Cameroon

Ibrahim Amadou Njobdi, Lelewal-A Sustainable Development Initiative

Canada

Martin Cooke, Sociology Department and Department of Health Studies and Gerontology, University of Waterloo

Myrle Traverse Ballard, Canadian Indigenous Biodiversity Network/Southern Chiefs' Organization

India

Harishwar Dayal, Institute for Human Development

Dev Nathan, Institute for Human Development

Mexico

Patricia Fernandez Ham, consultant to the United Nations Development Fund for Women

Nepal

Sumitra Manandhan Gurung, National Coalition against Racial Discrimination

Mukta Lama, Social Action for Grass-roots Unity and Networking

Krishna Sundar Malla, National President, Newa Day Daboo (Newars National Federation)

Punya Bikram Paudel, Ministry of Local Development, Government of Nepal

Kumar Yonjon Tamang, Nepal Tamang Ghedung

Nicaragua

Dennis Mairena Arauz, Centre for Indigenous Peoples' Autonomy and Development

Philippines

Jose Agayo, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples

Joji Carino, International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity Working Group on Indicators

Marvin Daul, Consortium of Christian Organizations in Rural Development

Leilene Marie Gallardo, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples

Olivia G. Gulla, National Statistics Office

Benjamin Navarro, National Statistics Board

Datu Vic Saway, Panagtagbo Mindanao

Thailand

Gam Awungshi Shimray, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Maurizio Ferrari, Environmental Governance Coordinator, Forest Peoples Programme

United Republic of Tanzania

Adam Kuleit Ole Mwarabu Lemareka, Parakuiyo Pastoralists Indigenous Community Development Organization

International organizations

John Scott, Convention on Biological Diversity secretariat

Birgitte Feiring, International Labour Organization

David Hunter, International Labour Organization

Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Govind Kelkar, United Nations Development Fund for Women

Annex II

List of presentations

Measuring well-being of aboriginal peoples in Canada: the registered Indian and Inuit human development index and community well-being index

Martin Cooke

Inequality and indigenous peoples in India

Dev Nathan

Indicators relevant to indigenous peoples and disaggregated data: Nepal's experience

Mukta Lama

Options for indicators of traditional occupations based on the International Standard Classification of Occupations

David Hunter

Customary sustainable use (article 10 (c) of the Convention on Biological Diversity) project: indicators relevant for indigenous peoples

Maurizio Ferrari

Gender and indigenous peoples in the 2010 census in Latin America

Patricia Fernandez Ham

Food and nutritional security

Harishwar Dayal

Gender indicators: critiques and alternatives

Govind Kelkar

Measuring indigenous peoples' rights in the Philippines: the Metagora experience

Benjamin Navarro

United Nations E/C.19/2009/7

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
2 March 2009

Original: English

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Eighth session
New York, 18-29 May 2009
Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum: economic and social development

Analysis prepared by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues: economic and social development

Summary

The present document seeks to provide an analysis of the implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on economic and social development, from the second to the seventh sessions.

The report is divided into five sections. The first section introduces the main issues at hand. The second section provides an overview of the recommendations on economic and social development that the Forum has issued throughout its sessions. The third section provides a progress report on the implementation of recommendations on economic and social development. The fourth section addresses obstacles and facilitating factors to the implementation of these recommendations. The final section draws conclusions and recommendations.

* E/C.19/2009/1.

09-25314 (E) 240309

Contents

I. Introduction ....
II. Overview of recommendations and thematic areas ....
III. Progress report on the implementation of recommendations ....
IV. Facilitating factors and constraints ....
V. Conclusions and recommendations ....

I. Introduction

1. Economic and social development is one of the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Throughout its seven sessions, the Permanent Forum has issued recommendations on a broad range of issues pertaining to economic and social development. These recommendations have been directed, for the most part, towards the agencies of the United Nations system, Governments and indigenous peoples' organizations. It is crucial to point out that, despite progress, the challenges that indigenous peoples face around the world persist.

2. The present document seeks to provide an analysis of the implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on economic and social development from the second to the seventh sessions, based on reports received from Governments, United Nations agencies and other intergovernmental bodies, non-governmental organizations and indigenous peoples' organizations. It does not constitute a global analysis of the economic and social situation of the indigenous peoples of the world.

3. Given the broad nature of the subject, in addition to addressing recommendations specifically issued under the economic and social development agenda item from each session, the analysis will also include the following: recommendations issued under special themes, including the Millennium Development Goals; recommendations issued under some of the ongoing themes and priorities of the Permanent Forum, including data collection and disaggregation and urban indigenous peoples and migration; relevant recommendations under future work of the Forum; and recommendations on economic and social development issued under region-specific agenda items (e.g., the half-day discussion on Asia during the sixth session).

4. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples constitutes the most comprehensive international legal instrument addressing the human rights of indigenous peoples. Article 3 of the Declaration states: "Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development".[1] In Article 23, the Declaration clearly lays out indigenous peoples' right to development: "Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions".[2] These articles and others linked to them should guide all development processes and activities carried out with indigenous peoples.

[1] General Assembly resolution 61/295, art. 3.

[2] Ibid., art. 23.

II. Overview of recommendations and thematic areas

5. The Permanent Forum has issued recommendations on economic and social development during all of its sessions. In total, between the second and seventh sessions, the Forum issued approximately 150 recommendations on economic and social development, including those issued under agenda items other than economic and social development.

6. The Forum has paid particular attention to participation/representation of indigenous peoples in development processes, the Millennium Development Goals, data collection and disaggregation and urban indigenous peoples and migration. The Forum has also repeatedly recommended that United Nations agencies, international financial institutions and other development actors change their paradigms and approaches in their work with indigenous peoples, including increased mainstreaming of indigenous peoples' issues in their work, respect for the principle of free, prior and informed consent, recognition of collective rights, and increased participation from indigenous peoples in programme design, implementation and monitoring.

A. Recommendations from the second session

7. During the second session (11-23 May 2003), the Permanent Forum recommended that the agencies and bodies of the United Nations system and international financial institutions, "rethink the concept of development, with the full participation of indigenous peoples in development processes, taking into account the rights of indigenous peoples and the practices of their traditional knowledge".[3] The Forum also called upon the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations and Governments to establish "processes of meaningful participation and partnership with indigenous communities" in development processes, including the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the poverty reduction strategy papers.[4] These two recommendations highlight one of the most crucial issues that the Forum has addressed in the context of economic and social development, namely the need for United Nations agencies, Governments and other actors to essentially change the way they work with indigenous peoples.

8. The Forum addressed, for the first time, the issues of urban indigenous peoples and migration, inviting Governments, local authorities and United Nations agencies to adopt policies and take measures to meet the needs of indigenous peoples in urban areas. The Forum also recommended that States and the United Nations system implement projects to diversify productive activities and income sources as a means to reduce internal and external migration.

9. The Forum addressed a series of recommendations at international financial institutions, notably requesting that international finance institutions formulate development policies for indigenous peoples, recognize the principle of free, prior and informed consent and compile and disseminate best practices.

---

[3] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 23* (E/2003/43, para. 26).

[4] Ibid., para. 29.

10. Finally, the Forum addressed the issue of data collection and disaggregation by calling for an expert workshop on the subject.

B. Recommendations from the third session[5]

11. During its third session (held from 10-21 May 2004), the Forum examined the theme of indigenous women. In this context, the Forum urged Governments to integrate a gender framework into all areas of their work and develop and implement policies to benefit indigenous women. The Forum also issued a broad recommendation to Governments to include the needs and rights of indigenous peoples in laws and policies, including the right to participation, and to develop policies for employment creation targeted at indigenous peoples.

12. The Forum addressed a series of recommendations to United Nations agencies and international financial institutions requesting that, together with Governments, they work towards ensuring the equal rights of indigenous women. This included developing programmes to address the underlying causes of indigenous women's marginalization, performing needs assessments, involving indigenous women in all phases of the programme cycle, and designing microfinance programmes.

13. The Forum recognized the importance of the Millennium Development Goals, calling upon United Nations agencies to work in collaboration with indigenous peoples towards their achievement and recommending that additional indicators be developed to better assess environmental sustainability. The issue of migration was also addressed again, and the Forum called upon United Nations agencies to strengthen their work on the issue. The Forum also addressed specific recommendations to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) regarding their work with indigenous peoples.

14. Finally, regarding the issue of future work, the Forum urged donor agencies and States to incorporate indigenous peoples' issues into development cooperation policies and joint programmes in order to effectively mainstream these issues into their work.

C. Recommendations from the fourth session[6]

15. During its fourth session (16-27 May 2005), the Permanent Forum began a two-year in-depth examination of the theme "Millennium Development Goals and Indigenous Peoples". Specifically, the Forum addressed Goal 1 (eradicate extreme poverty and hunger) and Goal 2 (achieve universal primary education).

16. Regarding Goal 1, the Forum subdivided its recommendations into three broad areas: framework and capacity-building, implementation and monitoring, and other follow-up. Under framework and capacity-building, the Forum underlined the need for multicultural policies and affirmative action in order to reduce poverty among indigenous communities. The Forum called upon States, the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations to "support the efforts of indigenous

[5] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 23* (E/2004/43).

[6] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 23* (E/2005/43).

peoples to build, articulate and implement their visions of and strategies for development".[7] This involves providing adequate funding, technical support and training, as well as ensuring the active participation of indigenous peoples in all stages of policymaking regarding the Millennium Development Goals. The Forum also emphasized that the human rights-based approach to programming should underpin all efforts towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, including poverty reduction strategies. The Forum called for the development of poverty indicators based on indigenous peoples' perspectives. The Forum also recommended that Governments, the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations develop capacity-building programmes on indigenous peoples' issues for their staff.

17. Under implementation and monitoring, the Forum stressed the need for indigenous peoples' active participation in national Millennium Development Goal monitoring processes, as well as in the development and implementation of frameworks such as the common country assessment/UNDAF and poverty reduction strategy papers. In this regard, the Forum recommended that national Millennium Development Goal reports include the situation and perspectives of indigenous peoples. The Forum also called upon the United Nations system and donor agencies to develop and/or implement policies on indigenous peoples, including a specific recommendation to the World Bank to include indigenous peoples in the revision of their policy. Finally, the Forum reiterated its call for improved disaggregation of data on indigenous peoples and poverty.

18. Under other follow-up, the Forum addressed specific recommendations to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), IFAD, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the World Bank regarding capacity-building, the development of policies and guidelines, and indicators on the right to food.

19. Following the international expert Workshop on Data Collection and Disaggregation for Indigenous Peoples,[8] held following a recommendation made by the Forum at its third session, the Forum made a series of recommendations on the subject, including a call to the United Nations Statistics Division and regional commissions to mainstream statistical issues pertaining to indigenous peoples. The Forum also recommended that the principle of free, prior and informed consent, as well as the right to participation, be respected in the context of data collection. Finally, the Forum called for increased capacity-building for indigenous peoples on data collection processes.

D. Recommendations from the fifth session[9]

20. The Forum continued its examination of the Millennium Development Goals during its fifth session (15-26 May 2006), which focused on the need to redefine the Goals to better address the needs of indigenous peoples. In this regard, the Forum reaffirmed that self-determination, free, prior and informed consent, and accountability form the basis of true partnerships for development. In this regard,

---

[7] Ibid., para. 12.

[8] See E/C.19/2004/2.

[9] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 23* (E/2006/43).

the Forum called for increased participation from indigenous peoples in United Nations Development Assistance Framework processes and Millennium Development Goal monitoring. The Forum also reiterated its recommendation to better address and include indigenous peoples in national Millennium Development Goal reporting. To facilitate this work, the Forum recommended that United Nations agencies appoint focal points on indigenous issues at the regional level in order to form regional inter-agency groups.

21. The Forum called for an expert group meeting on indigenous peoples and migration and the establishment of a task force on migration in the Inter-Agency Support Group on indigenous peoples.

22. The Forum revisited the issue of data collection and disaggregation, highlighting its importance for the monitoring and evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals. The Forum recommended that the Inter-Agency Support Group on indigenous peoples convene a technical workshop on indicators. The Forum also invited Governments, United Nations agencies and academic institutions to support the convening of regional workshops on indicators of poverty and well-being for indigenous peoples.

23. During its fifth session, the Forum also issued a series of recommendations on indigenous peoples in Africa, including calls for improved data disaggregation and improved coordination by all actors involved to address the challenges faced by indigenous peoples in the region.

E. Recommendations from the sixth session[10]

24. During its sixth session (14-25 May 2007), the Permanent Forum once again stated that indigenous peoples' rights and aspirations must be taken into account within the context of the Millennium Development Goals. The Forum reiterated its concern that national Millennium Development Goal reports do not sufficiently address the situation of indigenous peoples. The Forum also called upon international financial institutions to target indigenous peoples in their micro-finance mechanisms.

25. The Permanent Forum devoted a half-day discussion to indigenous peoples in Asia, and in this context issued a series of recommendations on economic and social development. Another half-day discussion was devoted to urban indigenous peoples and migration. The Forum once again recommended that States cooperate with indigenous peoples to provide better employment and economic development opportunities. The Forum also recommended that the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) carry out a study on the psychosocial effects of migration on indigenous children.

26. The Forum once again addressed the issue of data collection and disaggregation, calling for improved Millennium Development Goal indicators that effectively address the concerns of indigenous peoples, for inclusion of indigenous peoples' issues in Human Development Reports, and for the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) to continue its work on data disaggregation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

[10] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 23* (E/2007/43).

F. Recommendations from the seventh session[11]

27. At its seventh session (21 April-2 May 2008), the Permanent Forum addressed the theme "Climate change, bio-cultural diversity and livelihoods: the stewardship role of indigenous peoples and new challenges". In this context, the Forum recognized that climate change is an urgent threat to human rights and sustainable development and called for "urgent, serious and unprecedented action"[12] on the issue.

28. In terms of economic and social development, the Forum welcomed the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) guidelines on indigenous peoples' issues, encouraging United Nations agencies to implement and disseminate them. The Forum once again urged States and State-owned corporations to respect the right to free, prior and informed consent. The Forum also reiterated its concerns regarding the inclusion of indigenous peoples' issues in national Millennium Development Goal reports, global, regional and national human development reports, and national development processes. This included a call to UNDP to include indigenous experts in the development of human development reports. The Forum called upon United Nations agencies to improve the sharing of information with indigenous peoples at the local level so that indigenous peoples can better engage with the United Nations at the country level. The Forum also addressed specific recommendations on institutional capacity and participation to UNDP, FAO and ILO.

29. The Forum devoted a half-day discussion to the Pacific region, recommending that the United Nations system implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. The Forum also recommended that United Nations agencies review their operations to better address the needs of the Pacific region.

30. The Forum once again addressed urban indigenous peoples and migration, recommending that ECLAC and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) conduct studies on the issue. Regarding data collection and disaggregation, the Forum welcomed the global synthesis report on indicators of well-being and poverty,[13] and invited United Nations agencies, States and indigenous peoples' organizations to use the indicators as a guide in programmes and policies involving indigenous peoples. The Forum also requested that the Statistics Commission advocate for the promotion of indigenous issues in 2010 censuses and demographic and health surveys.

31. While addressing its future work, the Forum welcomed the establishment in Bolivia of the National Council for Dialogue among indigenous peoples and the United Nations system, encouraging other countries to replicate this example. Finally, the Forum welcomed the report on the International Workshop on Perspectives of Relationships between Indigenous Peoples and Industrial Companies,[14] calling upon States to support and implement the recommendations in the report.

---

[11] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2008, Supplement No. 23* (E/2008/43).

[12] Ibid., para. 23.

[13] E/C.19/2008/9.

[14] E/C.19/2008/5/Add.6.

III. Progress report on the implementation of recommendations

32. In order to facilitate the analysis of the implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on economic and social development, these are grouped into the following categories:

(a) Recommendations on changing paradigms and approaches to development;

(b) Recommendations on the Millennium Development Goals;

(c) Recommendations on urban indigenous peoples and migration;

(d) Recommendations on indicators and data collection and disaggregation.

33. The following table summarizes progress towards the implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on economic and social development.[15]

Session	*Number of recommendations*	*Implementation ongoing*	*Implementation completed*	*Implementation not initiated or reporting not received*
Third	17	7 (41 per cent)	2 (12 per cent)	8 (47 per cent)
Fourth	40	26 (65 per cent)	3 (7.5 per cent)	11 (27.5 per cent)
Fifth	33	15 (45 per cent)	2 (6 per cent)	16 (49 per cent)
Sixth	19	8 (42 per cent)	0 (0 per cent)	11 (58 per cent)
Total	**109**	**56 (52 per cent)**	**7 (6 per cent)**	**46 (42 per cent)**

A. Recommendations on changing paradigms and approaches to development

34. While these are certainly among the most difficult recommendations to implement and monitor, given the broad nature of the subject, a great deal of progress has been made, particularly by United Nations agencies. First and foremost, the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the General Assembly in September 2007 has provided a strong impetus in this direction.

35. It is especially important to highlight the fact that several agencies have adopted and/or revised their policies on indigenous peoples, including the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Asian Development Bank and UNDP. Both FAO and IFAD are in the process of developing policies. The United Nations Development Group adopted guidelines on indigenous peoples' issues in February 2008, which are being used by United Nations country teams to guide their work on indigenous peoples' issues. In the same context, the secretariat of the Permanent Forum, UNFPA and ILO have produced a resource kit on indigenous peoples'

[15] Please note that this table includes information only on the third to sixth sessions, as these are the only ones for which data is available on the Permanent Forum Recommendations Database at the time of writing; the database is available at: www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/recommendations.htm.

Issues. The Forum secretariat has also developed, and is currently rolling out, a training module on indigenous peoples' issues for United Nations staff working at the country level.

36. Certain agencies, such as IFAD, ILO and UNDP, have contributed significantly to the implementation of the recommendations of the Forum on economic and social development. IFAD has continuously emphasized the fact that indigenous peoples are disproportionately represented among the world's rural poor and has taken action to mainstream indigenous peoples' issues into its activities, including supporting capacity-building activities to allow indigenous peoples' organizations to be better equipped to participate in poverty reduction strategy paper processes. IFAD has provided the Forum secretariat with grants to undertake in-depth case studies of IFAD-financed projects to identify best practices on how development projects can help strengthen indigenous peoples' own perspectives and practices of development in order to reach the Millennium Development Goals, and carry out work on indicators.

37. UNDP has consistently reported to the Forum on its work with indigenous peoples at the local, national and regional levels. The Global Environmental Facility Small Grants Programme and the UNDP Regional Indigenous Peoples Programme in South-East Asia are two particularly important initiatives in this regard. UNDP has also established an advisory committee on indigenous issues at headquarters level.

38. ILO has reported on a broad range of activities carried out through its project to promote ILO policy on indigenous and tribal peoples (PRO 169). Activities have included capacity-building for staff from ILO headquarters and field offices, and bilateral and multilateral agencies, local-level studies on indigenous peoples and the Millennium Development Goals in Bolivia, Cambodia, Cameroon, Guatemala and Nepal, ethnic audits of poverty reduction strategy papers, and research and development of indicators on indigenous peoples' employment, including traditional occupations.

39. Another starting trend is the establishment of indigenous consultative committees in United Nations country teams and at the regional level. The Bolivia United Nations country team has established a consultative group made up of indigenous leaders to provide guidance on its work. UNICEF has established a similar body to advise on its programming on indigenous peoples' issues in Latin America and the Caribbean. The United Nations country team of Ecuador has established an inter-agency theme group on intercultural affairs and regularly reports to the Forum.

40. In terms of common country assessment and United Nations Development Assistance Framework processes, desk reviews carried out by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum in 2006, 2007 and 2008 have found that, barring a few exceptions, indigenous peoples' issues are not sufficiently addressed in these programming documents and indigenous peoples' participation is not being taken into account.

41. States have also reported on progress in implementing the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on changing approaches to development, although to a lesser extent than United Nations agencies. The Governments of Canada, Finland, Mexico and Norway, for example, have reported on programmes to improve living

conditions and employment opportunities of indigenous communities, particularly among indigenous women. The Government of Argentina has reported on the work of the National Institute for Indigenous Affairs, which provides technical and financial assistance for the implementation of development projects with the participation of indigenous peoples. The Government of Spain reported that 6 per cent of the budget of the Agencia Espanola de Cooperacion Internacional is allocated to cooperation with indigenous peoples. The Russian Federation has also contributed to the Forum's work on economic and social development through its support to expert group meetings, including the International Workshop on Perspectives of Relationships between Indigenous Peoples and Industrial Companies, held in Salekhard, Russian Federation, on 2 and 3 July 2007.

B. Recommendations on the Millennium Development Goals

42. Since its inception, the Permanent Forum has devoted a great deal of attention to the Millennium Development Goals. In addition to the fourth and fifth sessions, which addressed the Millennium Development Goals in depth, the Forum has issued recommendations on the Millennium Development Goals every year. It is also important to note the close link between the Millennium Development Goals and data collection and disaggregation, which is addressed separately in this report.

43. The secretariat of the Permanent Forum has carried out desk reviews of national Millennium Development Goal reports in 2006, 2007 and 2008 in order to analyse to what degree indigenous peoples' issues were addressed in those reports, as well as to see whether indigenous peoples participate actively in Millennium Development Goal monitoring at the national level. Despite some progress, the desk reviews have consistently concluded that indigenous peoples are not sufficiently included in national Millennium Development Goal reports, nor do they participate in the design and development of the reports. Another worrying trend is the fact that in several reports, indigenous peoples are not referred to directly, but rather through analysis of regional or rural disparities or under the grouping of "vulnerable populations". Finally, very few of the reports analysed present disaggregated data specifically reflecting the situation of indigenous peoples with regard to the Millennium Development Goals. In sum, the conclusions from these desk reviews underline the need to better include indigenous peoples in Millennium Development Goal implementation and monitoring processes at the country level.

C. Recommendations on urban indigenous peoples and migration

44. The Forum has issued a series of recommendations regarding urban indigenous peoples and migration. The International Organization for Migration (IOM), UN-Habitat and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean have played crucial roles in the implementation of these recommendations.

45. With the support of the Government of Canada, UN-Habitat, IOM, ECLAC and the secretariat of the Permanent Forum jointly organized an expert group meeting on urban indigenous peoples and migration, held in Santiago, from 27 to 29 March 2007.[16] Following recommendations from the Permanent Forum and from

[16] See E/C.19/2008/4/Add.7.

the expert group meeting, UN-Habitat, through the Inter-Agency Support Group, has been coordinating the elaboration of policy guides on indigenous peoples and employment and local economic development, education, health, transition/settlement services, cultural and linguistic continuity, human security and housing.

46. The Government of Canada has been the main supporter for keeping urban indigenous issues at the forefront by supporting focused meetings on this topic at major events such as the fourth World Urban Forum in Nanjing in December 2008 and at the Aboriginal Policy Research Conference in Ottawa in March 2009. The Government of Canada also hosts lunches during the sessions of the Permanent Forum to bring together relevant United Nations agencies, Permanent Forum members and States to work together on this important issue.

47. IOM has led the establishment of a task team on indigenous peoples and migration in the Inter-Agency Support Group. IOM has also reported on its programmes that address the situation and rights of indigenous migrants in Ecuador, Costa Rica and Colombia.

48. ECLAC has reported on ongoing efforts to disaggregate migration data to reflect the situation of indigenous peoples. This work has been carried out in the context of the ECLAC/Inter-American Development Bank project on migration and development.

D. Recommendations on indicators and data collection and disaggregation

49. The issue of data collection and disaggregation is very closely linked to economic and social development, as data plays a crucial role in ascertaining and monitoring the situation and rights of indigenous peoples. The Forum has therefore issued recommendations on this issue throughout its sessions. One of the main results in this regard has been the implementation of regional and thematic workshops on indicators relevant to indigenous peoples under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Millennium Development Goals. Through these workshops, a series of indicators of indigenous peoples' well-being has been developed. The results of the workshops are summarized in a global synthesis report.[13]

50. Before these workshops, the Inter-Agency Support Group had carried out a review to take stock of existing indicators within the United Nations system that address indigenous peoples' issues.[17] Also, the secretariat of the Permanent Forum and UNDP supported indigenous experts in Nepal in the development of a study and publication of data and statistics on indigenous peoples.

51. The United Nations Statistics Division has been a crucial partner in terms of data collection and disaggregation. Through its Demographic and Social Statistics Branch, the Division has included indigenous peoples' issues in the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 2.[18] Another important initiative is the development of a website to disseminate data on

[17] See E/C.19/2006/3/Add.1.

[18] ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/67/Rev.2.

ethnocultural characteristics and other information relevant to statistics on indigenous people.[19]

52. ECLAC has also played a pioneering role in the disaggregation of data on indigenous peoples in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Latin American and Caribbean Demographic Centre-Population Division of ECLAC developed a sociodemographic system on indigenous peoples of Latin America in collaboration with the Fondo Indigena. ECLAC has also worked closely with the Pan American Health Organization to improve health data on indigenous peoples. ECLAC has contributed to the dissemination of data on the situation of indigenous peoples in the region through the inclusion of chapters on indigenous peoples in the 2006 and 2007 editions of its flagship publication, ECLAC *Social Panorama of Latin America*. Jointly with UNICEF and UNFPA, ECLAC has been working towards the inclusion of disaggregated data on indigenous peoples and Afrodescendants in the 2010 round of censuses in the region. Activities in this area included a workshop held in Santiago from 19 to 21 November 2008, which brought together 100 experts from national statistical institutes, indigenous and Afrodescendant organizations, and academic institutions.

53. In terms of Governments, Mexico and Argentina have both reported on ongoing data disaggregation efforts in their housing and population censuses. In a similar trend, UNICEF included questions related to mother tongue, religion and ethnic group in its last round of Multi-Indicator Cluster Surveys and UNFPA has supported the Government of Nicaragua in improving the questionnaire for the national population census to more adequately gather specific data on indigenous peoples.

IV. Facilitating factors and constraints[20]

54. Some factors that have facilitated implementation are:

(a) The role of the Inter-Agency Support Group as a node for cooperation and coordination among agencies and a catalyst for the implementation by agencies of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum;

(b) The role played by the secretariat of the Forum in disseminating the final reports and recommendations of the Forum, and in providing follow-up and support, particularly in the case of joint activities;

(c) Addressing recommendations as specifically as possible to agencies, rather than more generic recommendations addressed at "development actors" or the United Nations system;

(d) The active engagement and commitment of focal points on indigenous issues in individual agencies in pursuing the recommendations addressed to their agencies;

(e) Contact with agencies, such as official visits of the Forum, formal and informal discussions during the sessions, and exchanges during meetings and

[19] See http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/popchar/default.htm.

[20] See E/C.19/2006/9; this section draws from the analysis and state of implementations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its first to third sessions.

workshops, can help the Forum have a clear idea of what is feasible for the agencies and how recommendations from the Forum can facilitate their work on indigenous peoples' issues;

(f) Special themes and special half-day discussions play a key role in highlighting particular issues or regions, creating an impetus for the implementation of relevant recommendations;

(g) Indigenous organizations and leaders at the national level can play a key role in engaging their Governments and United Nations agencies and advocating for the implementation of the recommendations of the Forum.

55. Some constraints or obstacles to implementation and monitoring are:

(a) Limited financial and human resources among agencies and Governments to implement the recommendations addressed to them;

(b) Lack of awareness of indigenous peoples' issues continues to be a challenge among staff and senior managers of agencies;

(c) Some of the recommendations of the Forum are, understandably, very broad in nature, which makes monitoring impossible in some cases. It is also difficult in many cases to follow up on recommendations addressed to Governments and indigenous peoples' organizations because of a lack of reporting;

(d) The sheer number of recommendations issued by the Forum makes it difficult for its secretariat, with its limited financial resources and staff, to adequately follow up on their implementation;

(e) Indigenous peoples' issues challenge dominant paradigms, and this is often a source of discomfort for some United Nations staff and Government officials.

V. Conclusions and recommendations

56. **The Permanent Forum may wish to consider reducing the number of recommendations issued during its annual sessions. This would facilitate both implementation and monitoring. The decision of the Forum to change its working methods and alternate between policy and follow-up can be one positive step in this direction.**

57. **In general, United Nations agencies and other intergovernmental bodies have responded well to the recommendations of the Forum on economic and social development, especially when these are addressed specifically. This is particularly the case with recommendations requesting studies and expert meetings.**

58. **The recommendations of the Forum regarding the Millennium Development Goals, while influencing the work of agencies at headquarters level, are not yet being fully implemented at the national level. This will require a concerted effort by United Nations country teams.**

59. **In terms of Governments, the follow-up process is more difficult because of a lack of reporting from many States. Those States that have provided reports to the Forum should continue doing so.**

60. **Indigenous peoples' organizations should also be encouraged to participate more actively in the reporting and follow-up process at the local, national and international levels, and in the sessions of the Forum.**

61. **The Forum should explore a methodology to encourage United Nations country teams to report and participate in the follow-up process, as is currently the case with the Ecuador United Nations country team.**

62. **In order to strengthen reporting, agencies should as much as possible refer specifically to the recommendations of the Forum, rather than list the activities they have implemented on indigenous peoples' issues. This methodology would result in reports that are more analytical.**

63. **In order to strengthen monitoring and follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum, the secretariat should improve the recommendations database. This would involve re-examining the methodology used to update the database, including among other measures, going beyond reports received from Governments, agencies and NGOs and examining the proceedings of the Forum sessions. This would entail considerable staff time and perhaps financial resources, but would be a positive step in strengthening follow-up.**

64. **Many of the recommendations of the Forum are labelled as "ongoing" in the recommendations database. It should be understood that many of the recommendations, because of their broad, comprehensive nature, will require a long-term approach to their implementation.**

65. **Good practices in the implementation of recommendations on economic and social development should be compiled and disseminated.**

66. **The recommendations of the Forum on economic and social development have certainly played a catalytic role in guiding and improving the work of the United Nations system on indigenous peoples' issues.**

United Nations E/C.19/2009/8

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
4 March 2009

Original: English

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Eighth session
New York, 18-29 May 2009
Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum: indigenous women

Analysis prepared by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues: indigenous women

Summary

The present report provides an analysis on progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues regarding indigenous women. The report is based on information and data supplied by Member States, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, international institutions, indigenous peoples' organizations, civil society organizations and other relevant parties.

* E/C.19/2009/1.

09-25580 (E) 260309

I. Introduction

1. Indigenous women face significant challenges to the full enjoyment of their human rights. Indigenous women experience multiple forms of discrimination, often lack access to education, health care and ancestral lands, face disproportionately high rates of poverty and are subjected to violence, such as domestic violence and sexual abuse, including in the contexts of trafficking and armed conflict. As the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues has stated, globalization presents additional challenges in many parts of the world. The roles of indigenous women have eroded due to the compounding factors of loss of natural resources and depletion of the ecosystems, their transformation into cash economies, changes in local, social and decision-making structures, and their lack of political status within States.[1]

2. Indigenous women have sought to address such issues at the local, national and international levels. At the United Nations, indigenous women have been advocates and leaders since the very first year of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, in 1982 in Geneva. Indigenous women were active participants and contributors during the more than two decades of negotiations regarding the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which was adopted by the General Assembly in 2007 (resolution 61/295). The human rights of indigenous women are protected by all of the provisions of the Declaration, which calls, in article 22, for particular attention to be paid to their rights and special needs, and calls upon States to take measures to ensure that indigenous women enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.

3. Today, at the Permanent Forum, indigenous women participate in great numbers, have their own caucus and have a strong voice. Since its first session, the Permanent Forum has paid special attention to indigenous women. The special theme of the third session of the Permanent Forum was indigenous women. During its seven sessions, the Permanent Forum has adopted 76 recommendations[2] directly referring to the situation of indigenous women.

4. The present report is not a depiction of the current state of indigenous women's issues around the world nor the overall work of the Permanent Forum or its secretariat with regard to indigenous women.[3] Rather it is a review of the implementation of the relevant recommendations of the Permanent Forum throughout its seven sessions, as presented in written reports to the Permanent Forum by the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, States and indigenous peoples' organizations.

5. The report also reflects the analysis undertaken by the Chairperson of the Permanent Forum, Vicky Tauli-Corpuz, and the secretariat of the Permanent Forum in their report to the Permanent Forum at its fifth session, entitled "Analysis and state of implementation of recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its first to third sessions".[4] It also reflects the analysis of a former member of the Permanent Forum, Otilia Lux de Cotí, and the International Forum of

[1] E/C.19/2004/23, para. 3.

[2] This figure does not include introductory paragraphs in which the Permanent Forum has addressed indigenous women's issues.

[3] Additional activities with regard to indigenous women are outlined in the report of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (E/C.19/2009/3/Add.4).

[4] E/C.19/2006/9.

Indigenous Women in their report to the sixth session, entitled "Análisis y seguimiento de las recomendaciones sobre mujeres indígenas del Foro Permanente de las Naciones Unidas para las cuestiones indígenas en sus cinco periodos de sesiones".[5]

II. Overview of recommendations of the Permanent Forum

6. The recommendations of the Permanent Forum regarding indigenous women have reflected its broad thematic mandate, addressing a wide range of issues, including education, culture, health, human rights, environment and development, conflict and political participation. Recommendations on these and other topics have been addressed to States, United Nations agencies and bodies, indigenous peoples and civil society. As described by the above-mentioned studies, the recommendations on all thematic areas have tended to focus on several major goals. These are outlined below, together with examples of relevant recommendations and ways that they have been implemented.

A. Increased and effective participation of indigenous women in global, regional and national processes

7. These recommendations focus on enhancing the participation of indigenous women in processes and mechanisms of the United Nations, regional bodies and States.

8. The Permanent Forum has called for increased and improved participation by indigenous women in activities related to a broad range of themes, including the following:

(a) Legal processes, including through the creation of mechanisms to enable indigenous women to take advantage of available juridical instruments such as free legal aid services and by encouraging the appointment of qualified indigenous women to decision-making positions in the areas of administration and public service;[6] and the creation of indigenous ombudsmen offices, ensuring the full and effective participation of indigenous women;[7]

(b) Governance and decision-making structures at all levels by ensuring equal access of indigenous women to decision-making and governmental bodies, political parties, judiciary and trade unions;[8]

(c) Economic and social development, including the development processes such as the common country assessment, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, and poverty reduction strategy papers;[9] formulation and decision-making processes regarding sustainable development initiatives;[10] and implementation, follow-up work and monitoring of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals.[11] The Permanent Forum has also called

[5] E/C.19/2007/CRP.4.
[6] E/C.19/2004/23, para. 42.
[7] E/C.19/2005/9, para. 78.
[8] E/C.19/2004/23, para. 14.
[9] E/C.19/2005/9, para. 18.
[10] Ibid., para. 113.
[11] Ibid., para. 112.

upon States to develop specific measures that enhance indigenous women's participation in their own development processes;[12]

(d) Human rights processes such as reporting to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and other relevant human rights bodies;[13] and the development, implementation and evaluation of United Nations and intergovernmental human rights policies and programmes;[14]

(e) Dialogue on climate change;[15]

(f) Health education programmes for indigenous women and men.[16]

9. The Permanent Forum has also called upon States to adopt policies and to strengthen existing funds for financing and supporting indigenous women's participation, as well as strengthening their own participation and social development options in all initiatives that promote their cultural identities.[17]

B. Shifts in paradigms and approaches to development and in the formulation of conceptual frameworks, policies and guidelines, and setting up projects to reflect those shifts

10. Recommendations in this category call for the inclusion of indigenous women's issues, views, perspectives and experiences in programmes and policies that have an impact on them. Such recommendations have addressed a broad range of issues, including the following:

(a) Violence against women, by including indigenous women in high-level United Nations studies on violence,[18] and calling for States to combat violence against women, including forced prostitution and trafficking of women and girls as well as domestic violence;[19] and calling for consultations with indigenous women to address violence and trafficking;[20]

(b) Migration, through the inclusion of the situation of migrant indigenous women in relevant studies;[21] and the promotion of programmes between countries of origin and destination to ensure continuity in indigenous children's relationships with their migrant parents and the protection of migrant children;[22]

(c) Reproductive health, including the incorporation of a cultural perspective into health policies, programmes and reproductive health services of all relevant United Nations entities with the aim of providing indigenous women with quality health care, including emergency obstetric care, voluntary family planning and

[12] E/C.19/2004/23, para. 57.
[13] E/C.19/2005/9, para. 114.
[14] E/C.19/2004/23, para. 47.
[15] E/C.19/2008/13, para. 30.
[16] E/C.19/2004/23, para. 89.
[17] Ibid., para. 63.
[18] E/C.19/2006/11, para. 55.
[19] E/C.19/2005/9, para. 117.
[20] E/C.10/2007/12, para. 105.
[21] Ibid., para. 114.
[22] Ibid., para. 113.

skilled attendance at birth;[23] allocation of State budgets to implement quality services to reduce maternal mortality and ensure indigenous women's access to reproductive health services;[24] and convening a workshop on indigenous health;[25]

(d) Human rights, through the integration of the human rights, reproductive health rights and special concerns and needs of indigenous women in programmes and policies of relevant United Nations agencies;[26] the implementation of international human rights instruments regarding indigenous women; and the integration of those instruments into national public policies for indigenous women (including legal frameworks, budget allocations and specific programmes and projects addressing indigenous women's issues);[27]

(e) Culture, by urging States to clearly identify and define the issues and needs of indigenous women, taking into account regional and local cultural differences;[27]

(f) Allocation and access to resources, including access to funding from public budgets;[28] access to markets and capital to enable indigenous women to turn their traditional skills into sustainable forms of income generation;[29] and access to capital and microfinance programmes;[30]

(g) Education, through the provision of community education services that will support indigenous peoples to develop the skills to manage the development of their communities and to participate in educational decision-making.[31]

C. Capacity-building and awareness-raising for indigenous peoples, personnel and governing bodies of United Nations agencies, programmes and funds and also Government officials and politicians

11. These recommendations call for the United Nations and States to make available resources for building the capacities of indigenous women, including awareness of human rights, how to use national, regional and international mechanisms to protect their rights and how to effectively participate in government and intergovernmental processes and mechanisms. Recommendations have identified the need for capacity-building in a variety of areas and suggested a number of approaches.

12. The Permanent Forum has called for the training for indigenous women on a number of issues, including the following:

(a) Leadership skills;[32]

(b) Human rights and the rule of law;[33]

---

[23] E/C.19/2006/11, para. 48.
[24] E/C.19/2005/9, para. 118 and E/C.19/2006/11, para. 49.
[25] E/C.19/2003/22, para. 64.
[26] E/C.19/2004/23, para. 5.
[27] Ibid., para. 14.
[28] Ibid., para. 57.
[29] Ibid., para. 31.
[30] Ibid., para. 61.
[31] Ibid., para. 19.
[32] E/C.19/2005/9, para. 116.
[33] E/C.19/2004/23, para. 43.

(c) National, regional and international economic institutions;[34]

(d) Administration and management of indigenous health-care programmes.[35]

13. The Permanent Forum has also:

(a) Urged States to ensure that the concerns and priorities of indigenous women are taken into account by increasing the capacity of indigenous women for decision-making and political participation, and by ensuring that adequate numbers of indigenous women are placed in positions of political leadership as well as in governance and public administration;[36]

(b) Called for technical cooperation and capacity-building programmes involving indigenous women by relevant United Nations agencies;[37] and the provision of technical assistance to Governments to establish mechanisms to protect the fundamental rights of indigenous peoples, especially indigenous women;[38]

(c) Called for the development of relationships with universities and other institutions of learning to undertake research that assist indigenous women's organizations in identifying and effectively utilizing available education resources and programmes, and promoting capacity-building through fellowships and grants;[39]

(d) Called for the allocation of funds for capacity-building in cooperation with the Permanent Forum and for special outreach to indigenous women,[40] and for the establishment of State funds for indigenous women to support capacity-building activities.[41]

D. Information and knowledge generation, management and dissemination

14. Such recommendations relate to the generation of information and knowledge on situations and issues of indigenous women and studies, policies and programmes of intergovernmental bodies and Governments. They cover such activities as workshops, data collection and disaggregation, research projects, analytical work, establishing websites and databases, publications and the use of the media to disseminate information on indigenous issues.

15. The Permanent Forum has called upon all United Nations entities to integrate the special needs and concerns of indigenous women into their programmes and policies by compiling and integrating disaggregated data (both qualitative and quantitative in nature and taking into account local and regional cultural/social/economic differences) on indigenous women's issues in their own annual reports.[42] It has recommended data collection and the holding of workshops on a variety of topics, including the following:

---

[34] Ibid., para. 59.
[35] Ibid., para. 89.
[36] Ibid., para. 14.
[37] Ibid., para. 9.
[38] Ibid., para. 43.
[39] Ibid., para. 15.
[40] E/C.19/2003/22, para. 108.
[41] E/C.19/2005/9, para. 115.
[42] E/C.19/2004/23, para. 8.

(a) Urbanization and migration, with an emphasis on indigenous women and youth;[43]

(b) Family separations caused by migration, and the psychological impact on men, children and women left behind;[44]

(c) Violence against indigenous women and girls, particularly sexual violence and violence in the context of armed conflict;[45]

(d) Incarceration rates of indigenous women;[46]

(e) Protection of vulnerable groups, such as indigenous peoples, especially taking into account the vulnerabilities of indigenous women and children;[47]

(f) Indigenous women, traditional knowledge and the Convention on Biological Diversity;[48]

(g) Health services, informed by indigenous concepts and an understanding of health, wellness, healing, illness, disease, sexuality and birthing.[49]

16. The Permanent Forum has recommended the dissemination of research and information regarding indigenous women in the following ways:

(a) Increasing the outreach and information flow to and from the academic community, including indigenous educational institutions, on indigenous women's issues;[50]

(b) Increasing media outreach (e.g., through newsletters, radio, website and publications in journals on indigenous issues);[51]

(c) At the local level and in indigenous languages.[52]

III. Assessment of implementation

17. The secretariat of the Permanent Forum has assessed the implementation of Permanent Forum recommendations on the basis of reports submitted to the Permanent Forum by the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations and States. The assessment is reflected in the Permanent Forum's recommendations database,[53] which as of February 2009, includes information regarding the second to the sixth sessions.[54]

---

[43] E/C.19/2008/13, para. 108.
[44] E/C.19/2007/12, para. 113.
[45] E/C.19/2004/23, para. 13 and E/C.19/2006/11, para. 47.
[46] E/C.19/2005/9, para. 67.
[47] E/C.19/2004/23, para. 51.
[48] Ibid., para. 11.
[49] Ibid., para. 89.
[50] Ibid., para. 8.
[51] Ibid., para. 15.
[52] Ibid., para. 43.
[53] Available at www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/recommendations.htm.
[54] For this reason, although the Permanent Forum has adopted 76 recommendations directly referring to the situation of indigenous women, the statistics in the table below reflect only the 67 recommendations made during the second to sixth sessions.

18. Based on information submitted, the implementation of each recommendation has been determined to be "ongoing", in instances where reports have indicated activity; "completed", in instances where the activity or goal recommended has reportedly been achieved; or "not initiated or reporting not received" when the Permanent Forum has received no information about the status of a particular information or has received information indicating that no action has been taken. As indicated by the table below, 6 per cent of recommendations regarding the situation of indigenous women have been fully implemented. Implementation is ongoing for 48 per cent of the recommendations, while action on the remaining 46 per cent of recommendations have not been either initiated or reported.

Permanent Forum session	*Number of recommendations regarding the situation of indigenous women*	*Implementation ongoing*	*Implementation completed*	*Implementation not initiated or reporting not received*
Second	8	0 (0 per cent)	0 (0 per cent)	8 (100 per cent)
Third	34	21 (62 per cent)	1 (3 per cent)	12 (35 per cent)
Fourth	12	4 (33 per cent)	2 (17 per cent)	6 (50 per cent)
Fifth	10	5 (50 per cent)	1 (10 per cent)	4 (40 per cent)
Sixth	3	2 (67 per cent)	0 (0 per cent)	1 (33 per cent)
Total	**67**	**32 (48 per cent)**	**4 (6 per cent)**	**31 (46 per cent)**

19. With regard to recommendations for which implementation has been completed or is ongoing, activities reported include the following.

Increased and effective participation of indigenous women in global, regional and national processes

20. A number of States have reported on the participation of indigenous women in political processes. For example, Canada has reported that a federal/provincial/territorial/aboriginal forum addressing issues of concern to aboriginal peoples includes the participation of aboriginal women's organizations. Aboriginal women are also involved in the development of a report card on progress for aboriginal peoples.[55] The Government of Finland reported that, as a member of the Arctic Council, it has ensured the participation of the Sami people, including indigenous Sami women, on a permanent basis, in all phases of its activities.[56]

21. United Nations agencies have reported on efforts to increase the participation of indigenous women in both governmental processes and United Nations meetings and activities. The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) has reported on its initiatives to strengthen the political participation of indigenous women. In Bolivia, for example, UNIFEM and a national non-governmental organization supported the political lobbying of indigenous women to include the demands of indigenous women in southern Bolivia and in the province of Cochabamba. UNIFEM reported working closely with indigenous women to strengthen their advocacy skills and noted that the new Constitution in Bolivia includes responses to the demands of indigenous women. Similarly, UNIFEM

[55] E/C.19/2005/5/Add.1.
[56] E/C.19/2005/5/Add.2.

reported playing an active role, through the provision of technical assistance, in facilitating the participation of indigenous women in inter-agency meetings and forums, both regionally and globally.[57]

22. UNIFEM has also reported on its efforts to ensure the protection of indigenous women's rights and their access to justice through working with indigenous communities and indigenous women strengthening their capacity to protect women's human rights in formal and ancestral justice systems. The preliminary phase of the UNIFEM regional programme on working against ethnic and gender-based discrimination for the effective exercise of Latin American indigenous women's rights has supported three pilot initiatives to improve indigenous women's access to justice. The strategy is based on strengthening traditional indigenous justice systems by promoting women's rights within authorities from a culturally appropriate perspective, and accompanying them with promoters of good treatment, both men and women, who follow the victims through the process and give advice to the authorities.[58]

Shifts in paradigms and approaches to development and in the formulation of conceptual frameworks, policies and guidelines, and setting up projects to reflect those shifts (integration of a different perspective in programmes)

23. States and United Nations agencies have reported a number of efforts to integrate the needs and perspectives of indigenous women into their programmes.

24. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) reported many examples of its efforts to fully incorporate cultural perspectives in health policies, programmes and reproductive health services aimed at providing indigenous women with quality health care, including emergency obstetric care, voluntary family planning and skilled attendance at childbirth. These include activities to improve sexual and reproductive health of indigenous peoples in Bolivia through laws on education reform and working to improve the reproductive health of indigenous populations in Guatemala.[59] UNICEF has also reported on its efforts in this regard, which include entering into an agreement with other partners to ensure that indigenous mothers and children are systematically protected in their right to safe delivery and childbirth, in line with their cultural traditions in Ecuador and supporting the reinforcement of access to maternity services in Peru for mothers in rural communities by adapting the practices used at health centres to the cultural patterns of indigenous peoples.[60]

25. In response to the Permanent Forum's call upon States to allocate budgets to implement quality services to reduce maternal mortality and ensure indigenous women's access to reproductive health services, the Government of Spain reported that it supports, and plans to support, initiatives relating to the sexual and reproductive health of indigenous women and girls, primarily in Panama, Argentina and Bolivia.[61]

---

[57] E/C.19/2008/4/Add.2.

[58] Information received from UNIFEM in 2009.

[59] E/C.19/2009/3.

[60] E/C.19/2008/4/Add.10.

[61] E/C.19/2007/4.

Capacity-building and awareness-raising for indigenous peoples, personnel and governing bodies of United Nations agencies, programmes and funds and also government officials and politicians

26. United Nations agencies and States have reported a number of capacity-building efforts with regard to indigenous women. For example, in 2006, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) provided technical assistance to local indigenous women's organizations in Colombia as well as within the department of Narino to include gender focus in strengthening youth organizations. A total of 650 men and women were engaged in a collective reflection on gender equity, which had a positive impact in reducing violence and increasing indigenous women's participation in managing local organizations.[60] In Bolivia, UNFPA supported a project that provided literacy skills in Quechua and Spanish to train participants in sexual and reproductive health. Between 1999 and 2007, the project reached more than 137,000 people, of whom 79 per cent were women.[59] UNFPA and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) have initiated a project to promote maternal health with a focus on strengthening indigenous women's organizations and systems of health care in Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras and Peru.[62] UNFPA has also supported the strengthening of indigenous women's organizations in Ecuador.[63]

27. As part of its endeavour to strengthen indigenous women's organizations, UNIFEM supported the participation of indigenous women to the International Forum of Indigenous Women, held in Lima in April 2008. More than 250 indigenous women from 20 countries in the Americas participated in the Forum. The objective was to create a space where indigenous women could share experiences with representatives of international organizations and social movements. As a result, a coordination committee was formed to advance the participation of indigenous women in international processes.[58]

28. Mexico has reported its development of the Indigenous Women's Productive Organization Programme, which seeks to provide substantial and ongoing support to building the skills and capacities of indigenous women living in extreme poverty in order to help them improve their living conditions through productive organization projects.[64]

Information and knowledge generation, management and dissemination

29. Research and data collection has been undertaken in several of the areas recommended by the Permanent Forum. In some cases, the research is being conducted to bring increased awareness and understanding of indigenous women's issues. For example, in the case of migration, UNICEF organized a panel on international migration and indigenous peoples in Ecuador in October 2007. As a result of this meeting, in-depth studies will be developed on the consequences of migration on children and women. In Peru, UNICEF is supporting a study on the impact of urban migration of indigenous people in Lima.[65] The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) reported its support for the production of a series of case studies documenting the role of indigenous peoples in preventing and

[62] Information received from ECLAC in 2009

[63] E/C.19/2009/3/Add.1.

[64] E/C.19/2008/5/Add.2.

[65] E/C.19/2008/4/Add.1.

resolving conflict and resulting in a publication entitled *Beyond the Silencing of the Guns*.[66] The International Labour Organization (ILO) has conducted specific case studies to increase understanding of the reality of child labour in indigenous communities from an intercultural and gender perspective.[67] ECLAC has worked with the Pan American Health Organization to research health and ethnic diversity in Latin America. The resulting study offers a regional view of the health situation of indigenous women.[62] The Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) has prepared a study focusing on tools to reduce maternal and child mortality among indigenous women in Latin America.[60] UNIFEM supported four studies on the rights of indigenous women in the Caribbean undertaken over a five-month period in Belize, Dominica, Guyana and Suriname. The studies reviewed existing literature, examined the economic, social, cultural and legal status of indigenous women and recent trends in the indigenous women's movement. The consultants undertaking the studies were either indigenous women (Belize, Suriname) or women closely associated with indigenous communities (Dominica, Guyana).

30. In some cases, information is produced to contribute to the capacity-building of indigenous women. For example, UNICEF reports that in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, it strengthened and promoted a strategy for the care for women victims of violence in Zulia through the publication of awareness-raising material.[68]

31. A number of agencies have also reported on their promotion of disaggregated data collection that includes indigenous women. UNIFEM has reported working towards raising the awareness and capacities of representatives from national statistics offices, national women's machineries, indigenous organizations and United Nations agencies from over 18 countries to develop and use gender statistics. For example, in Paraguay, UNIFEM supported the production of sex-disaggregated indicators on poverty, race and ethnicity in order to highlight the situation of Guaraní-speaking women.[57] ECLAC reported organizing a workshop in Colombia in 2008 to promote the disaggregation of data on health, in order to better identify the situation of indigenous peoples and women in the region.[62]

32. With regard to dissemination, UNIFEM reported that, in Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, it financed a project on a regional radio network, to train community radio journalists on the prevention of violence against women. As a result, 55 journalists (about half of them women) from 30 community radio stations increased their capacity in producing radio programmes addressing the issues of violence against women from an ethnic perspective; six radio spots and eight sociodramas in different languages were produced; and 20 radio stations participated in a regional competition.[57]

IV. Facilitating factors

33. Some factors that have facilitated implementation of Permanent Forum's recommendations are:

(a) The support and advocacy of indigenous women's movements and organizations;

[66] E/C.19/2005/4/Add.4.
[67] E/C.19/2005/4/Add.5.
[68] E/C.19/2007/3/Add.10.

(b) The adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, together with the support it has received from many Governments;

(c) The work of the Inter-Agency Support Group, through which focal points from more than 30 member agencies share information and meet to strategize, cooperate and coordinate their activities;

(d) The Inter-Agency Task Force on Indigenous Women, which was convened from 2004 to 2007, provided participating agencies with an opportunity to promote the special concerns of indigenous women within the work of the United Nations system. During the first year, 2004/05, the Task Force conducted a general survey of work of the United Nations system with indigenous women. During the second year, 2005/06, the Task Force devoted its efforts to collecting case studies from the work of the United Nations system with indigenous women, entitled *Indigenous Women and the United Nations System: Good Practices and Lessons Learned*.[69] The publication was launched in May 2007 during the sixth session of the Permanent Forum;

(e) United Nations agencies have reported that, at the country level, facilitating factors and challenges encountered in their work on indigenous issues vary greatly across countries and are influenced by national priorities and political opportunities. In some countries, political conditions provide important opportunities for advancing indigenous women's rights and promoting the incorporation of an intercultural perspective into public policies and services for indigenous women;

(f) At the country and regional levels, partnerships are developed with key governmental and civil society partners and indigenous networks;

(g) United Nations agencies have reported that working closely with the Permanent Forum can also facilitate the implementation of recommendations. For example, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) has reported working actively with Permanent Forum members and other indigenous experts in the design of its international and regional training programmes for indigenous peoples;[70]

(h) Some United Nations bodies and agencies are already implementing programmes specifically targeted for indigenous peoples and some have issued policies on indigenous peoples. The recommendations of the Permanent Forum have provided further justification for continuing, expanding or replicating such activities.

V. Challenges

34. Constraints or obstacles to the implementation of Permanent Forum recommendations include the following:

(a) Some recommendations remain unimplemented because they require financial resources that are not within the budget of agencies, programmes and

[69] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.I.9.

[70] Information received from UNITAR.

funds. United Nations bodies also often lack the money or personnel to implement the recommendations of the Permanent Forum, particularly those calling for studies or research to be undertaken. One United Nations department noted that, with additional resources, more documents could, for example, be translated and printed in all official languages of the United Nations as well as in indigenous languages, and outreach activities could be enhanced;[71]

(b) States have also reported insufficient budgetary resources to address all issues;

(c) At the country level, implementation of Permanent Forum recommendations may be challenged by a lack of awareness regarding indigenous issues among United Nations country team staff, senior management officials or governing bodies;

(d) In some countries, challenges have been related to ongoing political sensitivities around indigenous peoples' issues. For instance, in some countries, the publication of data on the situation of indigenous peoples continues to be highly sensitive. Moreover, in some instances, national Governments may favour implementation of Permanent Forum recommendations, but may face resistance from local governments or economic power groups within their countries. In some instances, implementation of recommendations is also challenged by situations of internal violence and conflict;

(e) Some recommendations are vague and do not focus adequately on tangible results that can easily be monitored.

VI. Conclusions and recommendations

35. In the course of its seven sessions, the Permanent Forum has identified a broad range of approaches to improving the situation of indigenous women. A number of important programmes and activities have been undertaken to meet some of the Permanent Forum recommendations, while implementation of the remaining 46 per cent of relevant recommendations has not been reported or initiated.

36. It is likely that the Permanent Forum has not received complete written information regarding the state of implementation of its recommendations. The source of information for the present report and for the UNPFII recommendations database are the voluntary written submissions provided by United Nations agencies and by States.

37. **To gather additional information regarding implementation of Permanent Forum recommendations, the Permanent Forum should review oral interventions delivered during sessions of the Permanent Forum and add to the database references made to the implementation of recommendations regarding indigenous women. In addition, as the majority of information received by the Permanent Forum addresses situations in Central and South America and the Caribbean, the Permanent Forum should encourage reporting regarding other regions in order to better assess the state of implementation in those areas. Reports should clearly tie activities undertaken to the Permanent Forum recommendations to which they correspond. Indigenous women's organizations**

[71] Information received from the Department of Public Information.

should also be invited to engage in their own monitoring of the implementation of Permanent Forum recommendations to the United Nations system and others at the local and country levels, as well as the regional level and inform the Permanent Forum if they deem appropriate.

United Nations E/C.19/2009/9

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
4 March 2009

Original: English

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Eighth session
New York, 18-29 May 2009
Item 3 (c) of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum: Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

Analysis prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues: Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

Summary

The present report provides an analysis of the progress in implementation of the goal, objectives and Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. It is based on reports from States, the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and indigenous peoples' organizations.

* E/C.19/2009/1.

09-25586 (E) 260309

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	3
II.	Role of the General Assembly	3
III.	Progress in the implementation of the goal, objectives and Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People	5
IV.	Implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on the Second International Decade	10
V.	Conclusion	12
Annex		
	List of documents	14

I. Introduction

1. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues has played a pivotal role in the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, from the proclamation of the Decade to the preparation of the objectives and Programme of Action for the Decade. The work of the Forum's Bureau has been to function as the advisory body for the part of the Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues dealing with the Decade as well as to promote the inclusion of the Decade in its annual agenda. At its seventh session, the Forum decided to discuss the Decade as one of the three review items on the agenda of the eighth session.

II. Role of the General Assembly

2. On 20 December 2004, in resolution 59/174, the General Assembly proclaimed the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, commencing on 1 January 2005. In the same resolution, the Assembly noted the achievements of the first Decade, including the establishment of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the contributions made by the Permanent Forum, the Working Group on Indigenous Populations and the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people. It also noted the deep concern expressed by the Commission about the precarious economic and social situation that indigenous peoples continued to endure in many parts of the world in comparison to the overall population and the persistence of grave violations of their human rights, and the Commission's reaffirmation of the urgent need to recognize, promote and protect more effectively their rights and freedoms.

3. The General Assembly also recalled its expectation, expressed in resolution 49/214, of achieving the adoption of a declaration on indigenous rights within the International Decade and recognized the importance of consultation and cooperation with indigenous people in planning and implementing the programme of activities for the Decade and the need for adequate financial support from the international community.

4. The General Assembly decided that the goal of the Second International Decade should be the further strengthening of international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as culture, education, health, human rights, the environment and social and economic development, by means of action-oriented programmes and specific projects, increased technical assistance and relevant standard-setting activities (resolution 59/174). The theme of the Second Decade is "Partnership for action and dignity".

5. In accordance with the General Assembly's request in the same resolution, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs was appointed as the Coordinator for the Second Decade.

6. In resolution 59/174, the General Assembly also appealed to the specialized agencies, regional commissions, financial and development institutions and other relevant organizations of the United Nations system to increase their efforts to take special account of the needs of indigenous people in their budgeting and in their programming; requested the Secretary-General to establish a voluntary fund for the Second Decade, which to all juridical purposes and effects should be set up and

should discharge its functions as a successor to the already existing Voluntary Fund established for the first Decade; urged Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the Voluntary Fund for the Second Decade established by the Secretary-General, and invited indigenous organizations and private institutions and individuals to do likewise; decided to continue observing in New York, Geneva and other offices of the United Nations every year during the Second Decade the International Day of Indigenous People, to request the Secretary-General to support the observance of the Day from within existing resources, and to encourage Governments to observe the Day at national level; and requested the Secretary-General to give all the assistance necessary to ensure the success of the Second Decade.

7. In February 2005, the Coordinator for the Second Decade invited States, the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, indigenous peoples' organizations and non-governmental organizations to provide input towards a programme of action for the Second Decade. The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues held a discussion on the topic during its fourth session in May 2005 and the Working Group on Indigenous Populations held a discussion during its twenty-third session in July 2005. Eleven States, 16 United Nations agencies and other intergovernmental organizations, as well as 22 indigenous peoples' organizations, provided inputs for the Programme of Action.

8. The Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People[1] was adopted by the General Assembly on 16 December 2005 (resolution 60/142) as a guideline for action during the Decade. It relies on five key objectives which cut across the various areas of the goal for the Decade established by the General Assembly, namely, strengthening international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in the areas of culture, education, health, human rights, the environment and social and economic development.

9. The five objectives for the Decade are:

- Promoting non-discrimination and inclusion of indigenous peoples in the design, implementation and evaluation of international, regional and national processes regarding laws, policies, resources, programmes and projects
- Promoting full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in decisions which directly or indirectly affect their lifestyles, traditional lands and territories, their cultural integrity as indigenous peoples with collective rights or any other aspect of their lives, considering the principle of free, prior and informed consent
- Redefining development policies that depart from a vision of equity and that are culturally appropriate, including respect for the cultural and linguistic diversity of indigenous peoples
- Adopting targeted policies, programmes, projects and budgets for the development of indigenous peoples, including concrete benchmarks, and particular emphasis on indigenous women, children and youth
- Developing strong monitoring mechanisms and enhancing accountability at the international, regional and particularly the national level, regarding the implementation of legal, policy and operational frameworks for the protection of indigenous peoples and the improvement of their lives

[1] A/60/270, sect. II.

10. The Programme of Action for the Second International Decade was launched at a special event held at the opening of the fifth session of the Permanent Forum in the General Assembly Hall in 2006. The event was co-chaired by the Coordinator for the Second Decade and the Chairperson of the Permanent Forum.

11. The General Assembly annually discusses the Second Decade under the item entitled "Indigenous issues". At its sixty-third session, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and mechanisms and other stakeholders, including indigenous organizations, to submit to the Assembly at its sixty-fifth session a midterm assessment report that evaluates progress made in the achievement of the goal and objectives of the Second Decade (resolution 63/161).

III. Progress in the implementation of the goal, objectives and Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

12. One of the most historic achievements of the Second International Decade has been the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on 13 September 2007 (resolution 61/295, annex). The Declaration was the result of more than two decades of consultation and dialogue among Governments and indigenous peoples from all regions and is a major victory in the long history of the United Nations developing international human rights standards.

13. Under article 42 of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the United Nations, its bodies, including the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and specialized agencies, including at the country level, and States are expected to promote respect for and full application of the provisions of the Declaration and follow up the effectiveness of the Declaration.

14. At its fifth session in 2006, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues requested the Coordinator for the Second International Decade to provide an annual report on the implementation of the Decade. At its annual reporting to the Permanent Forum, the secretariat of the Forum presents updates based on information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and States (see E/C.19/2006/8, E/C.19/2007/9 and E/C.19/2008/8).

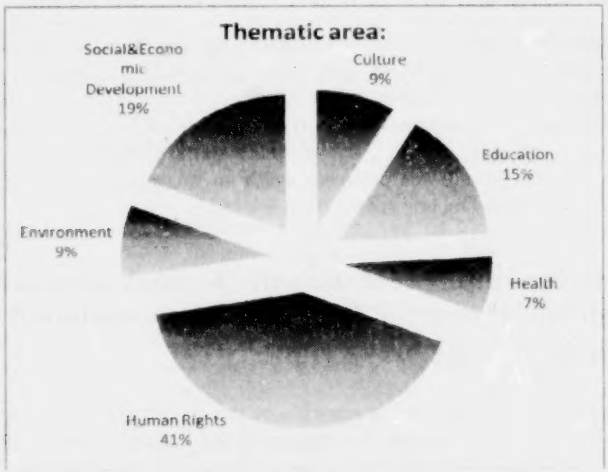
Support for activities implemented under the Second International Decade

15. Each year, the Permanent Forum as well as the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat appeal to Member States to contribute to the Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues for the implementation of the Second International Decade (see E/2008/43). The Trust Fund is the financial mechanism to support activities related to the Second Decade and relies entirely on voluntary contributions.[2]

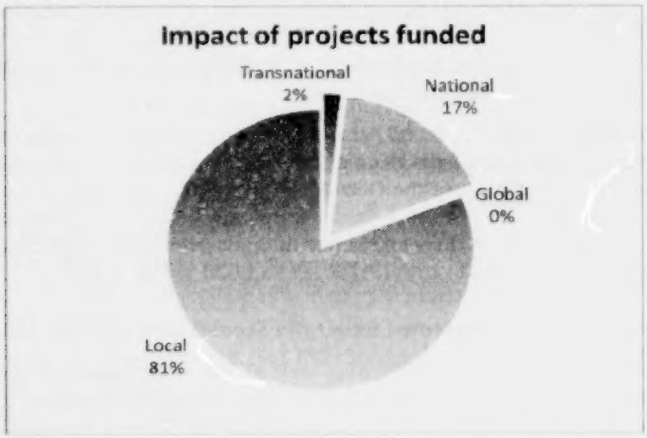
16. The small grants programme under the Trust Fund is perceived as an important contribution to capacity-building and empowerment of indigenous peoples'

[2] Donors to the Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues specifically earmarking contributions for the Second Decade are: Algeria, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Germany, Japan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Luxembourg, Mexico, Peru and Suriname.

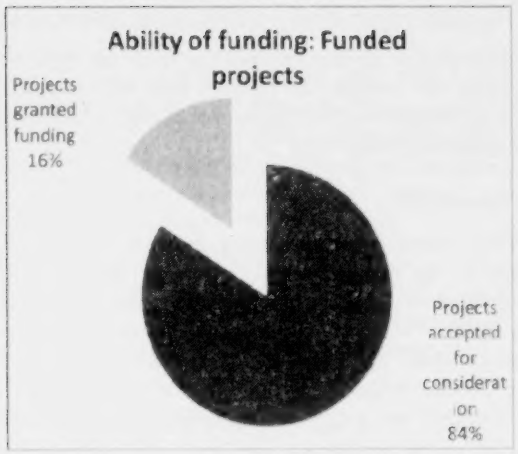
communities and organizations in order to develop their own processes for engaging in local and national policies.



17. From 2006 to 2008, the Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues granted a total of 58 projects. The projects have mostly been in the areas of social and economic development and human rights (a total of 60 per cent of the projects).



18. The target population in 54 per cent of the projects has been the indigenous population in general, while 18 per cent focused specifically on women and 23 per cent on youth. The projects have mainly been implemented with a local focus (81 per cent), with a majority in the rural areas (63 per cent). It is clear that continued contributions to the Trust Fund are highly desirable, taking into consideration the high demand established by the many project proposals. In the dialogue of the Permanent Forum and its secretariat with donors and international society, the importance of the grass-roots projects supported under the Second Decade is underlined.



19. Out of the 365 projects that were reviewed by the Bureau of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, acting as the Advisory Group, only 58 projects in the amount of $566,101 could be approved owing to limited resources.

Awareness-raising

20. At its fourth session in 2005, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues invited the Coordinator for the Second Decade and the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat to initiate the awareness-raising campaign of the Second International Decade (E/2005/43, chap. I, para. 142). In response, the Department of Public Information, in cooperation with the secretariat of the Permanent Forum, produced information material on the Second Decade, including a poster and a brochure outlining the theme, objectives and Programme of Action for the Decade.

21. The Department of Public Information also provides assistance with the organization and promotion of the annual commemoration of the International Day of the World's Indigenous People at United Nations Headquarters organized by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum in cooperation with the NGO Committee for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. In 2008 the theme of reconciliation was highlighted in a panel discussion. The Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations organized a screening of the film *The Apology* dealing with the Australian Government's formal apology to indigenous peoples who were removed from their families as part of the State policy known as the "Stolen Generations".

22. The United Nations Information Centre in Mexico City has been involved in a project to translate and disseminate the Declaration into indigenous languages, and the United Nations Information Centre in Rio de Janeiro produced a Portuguese version of the Declaration as well as a "Frequently Asked Questions" fact sheet about the Declaration in 2008. Other activities for the International Day of the World's Indigenous People included an exhibition in Brazzaville, a press conference with representatives from the United Nations and indigenous peoples' organizations

in Bogotá, and the development of a special web page by the United Nations Information Centre in Lima (http://www.uniclima.org.pe/index1.htm).

23. The secretariat of the Permanent Forum is in the process of developing a practical resource kit for indigenous peoples and their organizations as well as national and local authorities on the goal, objectives and Programme of Action of the Second International Decade.

Activities at the State level

24. In the written information submitted annually by Member States to the Permanent Forum, it is generally not specified whether the various policy, legislative or programmatic actions taken at the national level may be within the framework of the Second International Decade. They might, however, be inspired by the Decade's broad goal, objectives and Programme of Action. The midterm assessment of the Decade called for by the General Assembly for 2010 will provide an opportunity to Governments to submit specific and comprehensive information.

25. In 2006, as a contribution to the Second International Decade, Denmark and Greenland invited the Permanent Forum to hold a special meeting in Nuuk, Greenland, on the subject of "Partnership Visions for the Second Decade of the World's Indigenous People". The report of that meeting was submitted to the Permanent Forum at its fifth session (E/C.19/2006/4/Add.2).

26. At its seventh session in 2008, Bolivia informed the Forum that it had taken measures to incorporate the goal and objectives of the Second International Decade actively into national policymaking with the creation of a national action plan which complied with the goal and objectives of the Second Decade (see E/C.19/2008/5/Add.3).

Other initiatives under the Second International Decade

27. In 2006, the Coordinator for the Second Decade placed the subject of the Second Decade on the agenda of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) for discussion and action. As a result, UNDG decided to transmit the Programme of Action for the Second International Decade to all United Nations country teams so that they could integrate it in their work. In addition, the Group decided to launch a comprehensive effort for the systematic integration of indigenous issues in the field by initiating the elaboration of guidelines to the country teams as well as of an action plan that would enhance their capacity in that area. This important initiative, inspired by the impetus of the Second Decade, resulted in the adoption, on 1 February 2008, of the UNDG "Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues" for United Nations country teams as well as the adoption, in July 2008, of an action plan for the rolling-out of these Guidelines (http://www.undg.org/index.cfm?P=270). The support of the Inter-Agency Support Group in these processes has been invaluable.

28. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs has taken the initiative to adopt a Plan of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples, bringing together the relevant Divisions of the Department (http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/second.html).

29. As a direct response to the recommendation in the Programme of Action for the Second International Decade to develop cooperation with the Working Group on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples/Communities in Africa, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) organized a meeting of experts on indigenous peoples and the implementation of the Second Decade in Brazzaville in November 2007. The recommendations from the meeting provide a framework for the development of a plan of action to be implemented by the United Nations system and other stakeholders for the African region (see E/C.19/2008/4/Add.14).

30. During the seventh session of the Permanent Forum, the International Fund for Agricultural Development reported that, within the context of the Decade, it had started a process to develop its own principles of engagement with indigenous peoples, in order to comply with the Permanent Forum's recommendations (see E/C.19/2008/4/Add.3).

31. As an agency traditionally engaged in indigenous issues, the International Labour Organization (ILO), in 2006 held several activities targeting indigenous peoples, inspired by the Decade. In October 2006, it co-sponsored a special indigenous peoples' session at the World Congress on Communication for Development, which was held in Rome. ILO also engages in capacity-building on indigenous peoples' issues at the national level in countries such as Cameroon, Cambodia, Honduras and Nepal (see E/C.19/2007/3/Add.11).

32. Within the context of the Decade, training programmes of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) have incorporated a specific focus on indigenous peoples in the areas of conflict resolution, economic and social development, health, human rights, environment and culture. UNITAR has pledged to engage indigenous peoples in more of its activities (see E/C.19/2008/4).

33. Projects of the United Nations Environment Programme in the polar area have responded to the objectives and recommendations made in the Programme of Action for the Second Decade by focusing on the issue of climate change and management of the environmental and social impact of climate change (see E/C.19/2008/4/Add.12).

34. In the Latin American context, the United Nations Children's Fund Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, in partnership with OHCHR and the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, organized a regional meeting focusing on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Second Decade. At the meeting held in Quito in 2007, a joint plan of action for strengthening the collaboration in regard to the Declaration and the Second Decade was discussed. The meeting was attended by 11 representatives of regional United Nations agencies. The conclusions and recommendations of the meeting were presented at the United Nations Regional Directors' meeting held in Chile in November 2008 (see E/C.19/2008/4/Add.1).

IV. Implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on the Second International Decade

Recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues from 2005 to 2008 on the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People and status of implementation

Session of the Permanent Forum	*Para.*	*Recommendation*	*Addressee*
Fourth session (E/2005/43)	142	Initiation of an awareness-raising campaign related to the Second International Decade.	Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Department of Public Information, Department of Economic and Social Affairs **Ongoing implementation**
	143	The Forum recommends that the Coordinator of the Second International Decade consult with the Permanent Forum regarding the preparation of the draft Plan of Action for the Second Decade.	Department of Economic and Social Affairs **Action completed**
	144	The Forum recommends the establishment of national committees for the Decade.	Governments/States
Fifth session (E/2006/43)	68	The Forum recommends the adoption of the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples by the General Assembly at its sixty-first session.	Human Rights Council **Action completed**
	128	Request for an annual report by the Coordinator for the Second International Decade.	The secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Department of Economic and Social Affairs **Ongoing implementation**
	136	The Forum recommends elaborations of strategies and action plans for communications/awareness-raising related to the promotion of the Second International Decade.	Governments, United Nations system, indigenous people's organizations **Ongoing implementation**

Session of the Permanent Forum	*Para.*	*Recommendation*	*Addressee*
Sixth session (E/2007/43)	82	The Permanent Forum calls upon States that have created special national committees for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People to cooperate more effectively with it, and would welcome invitations to attend activities of such national committees. The Permanent Forum encourages those States that have not yet done so to establish national committees for the Decade.	Governments/States
	146	The Forum calls for contributions to the Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues.	Donor agencies, United Nations system/United Nations agencies and Governments/States **Ongoing implementation**
Seventh session (E/2008/43)	103	The Forum encourages the United Nations system to support the Guidelines with a programme of action and calls upon the donor community to provide resources to that effect. The Forum also calls upon the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues to review and revise the Guidelines in the light of the adoption of the Declaration.	United Nations system, Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues **Ongoing implementation**
	104	The Forum therefore strongly appeals to all States, the United Nations system, foundations and other donors to make generous contributions to the Trust Fund in support of the Second International Decade.	States, United Nations system, Foundations **Ongoing implementation**

Session of the Permanent Forum	*Para.*	*Recommendation*	*Addressee*
	140	The Permanent Forum recommends that intergovernmental organizations such as the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Ibero-American Summit, in cooperation with indigenous peoples, establish a working group to promote the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Plan of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.	Intergovernmental organizations, indigenous peoples

35. The above table provides an overview of the Permanent Forum's recommendations on the Decade as well as the status of their implementation, while section III of this report describes specific actions in that regard.

V. Conclusion

36. The Plan of Action for the Second International Decade was developed with wide input from the United Nations system, States and indigenous peoples' organizations. It contains recommendations for action at the international, regional and national levels. United Nations agencies and intergovernmental bodies, States, civil society and indigenous peoples' organizations are, in various ways, implementing targeted activities and programmes as part of the Second Decade.

37. The secretariat of the Permanent Forum has not received a critical enough mass of responses regarding the Decade in order to be able to ascertain all progress made in the implementation of the Decade.

38. In their reports to the Permanent Forum, most organizations and States pointed out in general that, although they had not undertaken specific activities under the Decade's framework, their overall work followed the spirit of the goal, objectives and Programme of Action for the Decade. An analysis of the responses received also indicates that the challenges various actors faced in terms of implementation were linked to the limited human and financial resources. It should be pointed out that the governmental and intergovernmental sectors, indigenous peoples and their communities and organizations as well as other parts of civil society have been invited and challenged by the international community to implement: (a) the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, (b) the recommendations of the Permanent Forum, (c) the goal, objectives and Programme of Action for the Decade, and (d) the recommendations of other international mechanisms related to indigenous peoples' issues. It is important to consider, however, that the above-mentioned frameworks and the Decade are complementary and are not necessarily about providing more resources, but rather about changing the way of delivering programmes, especially in terms of promoting non-discrimination and inclusion, full

and effective participation of indigenous peoples, programmes that are culturally appropriate as well as establishing strong monitoring mechanisms (Objectives (i), (ii), (iii) and (v) of the Decade).

39. While the mid-Decade review in 2010 called for by the General Assembly will give the opportunity to all concerned to renew their commitment to the Decade, take relevant actions and provide comprehensive inputs on the implementation of the Decade, it should be pointed out that at least two clear broad outcomes have been catalysed during the first years of the Decade: (a) an increased awareness of indigenous issues and increased involvement of Member States, United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations in indigenous issues, including at the field level; and (b) the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

40. **At this important juncture of the Decade's vision and of the efforts towards the Millennium Development Goals, it is recommended that States, indigenous peoples and the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other actors of civil society undertake initiatives inspired by the goal, objectives and Programme of Action of the Second International Decade, including financial support to the Trust Fund on Indigenous Issues. It is also recommended that reporting of all concerned on progress in the implementation of the Decade be enhanced, including on the part of indigenous peoples and their organizations.**

Annex

List of documents

Centro de Información de las Naciones Unidas para el Perú
http://www.uniclima.org.pe/index1.htm

Department of Economic and Social Affairs: Plan of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People
http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/second.html

General Assembly resolution 59/174, "Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples", 20 December 2004

General Assembly resolution 60/142, "Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People", 16 December 2005

General Assembly resolution 63/161, "Indigenous issues", 18 December 2008

Information received from Governments: the Government of Denmark and the Greenland Home Rule Government. Fifth session of the Permanent Forum (2006), E/C.19/2006/4/Add.2

Information received from Governments: Bolivia. Seventh session of the Permanent Forum (2008), E/C.19/2008/5/Add.3

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations: International Labour Organization. Sixth session of the Permanent Forum (2007), E/C.19/2007/3/Add.11

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations: United Nations Children's Fund. Seventh session of the Permanent Forum (2008), E/C.19/2008/4/Add.1

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations: United Nations Environment Programme. Seventh session of the Permanent Forum (2008), E/C.19/2008/4/Add.12

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Seventh session of the Permanent Forum (2008), E/C.19/2008/4/Add.14

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations: International Fund for Agricultural Development. Seventh session of the Permanent Forum (2008), E/C.19/2008/4/Add.3

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations: United Nations Institute for Training and Research. Seventh session of the Permanent Forum (2008), E/C.19/2008/4

Ongoing priorities and themes, note by secretariat of the Permanent Forum, E/C.19/2006/8

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, report on the fourth session (16-27 May 2005), E/2005/43

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, report on the fifth session (15-26 May 2006), E/2006/43

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, report on the sixth session (14-25 May 2007), E/2007/43

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, report on the seventh session (21 April-2 May 2008), E/ 2008/43

Report of the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on ongoing priorities and themes, E/C.19/2007/9

Report of the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on ongoing priorities and themes, E/C.19/2008/8

United Nations Development Group: Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues http://www.undg.org/index.cfm?P=270

United Nations E/C.19/2009/10

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
5 March 2009

Original: English

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Eighth session
New York, 18-29 May 2009
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum:
(a) economic and social development; (b) indigenous women;
(c) Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

Reports received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The summaries of the reports submitted by 11 entities of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations are included in the present note as part of the overall reports received by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The complete reports are available on the Permanent Forum website (http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/session_eighth.html).

* E/C.19/2009/1.

09-25771 (E) 250309

I. Introduction

1. As at 4 March 2009, written submissions to the eighth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues had been received from 17 United Nations and other intergovernmental entities, namely the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Food Programme (WFP), the Department of Public Information, the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Department of Political Affairs.

2. In accordance with the provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Permanent Forum, reports by agencies have been taken into account in the analysis papers prepared by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum under item 3, "Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum".[1] The reports of the six agencies that will be considered under item 6, "Comprehensive dialogue with six United Nations agencies and funds", have been issued as documents of the session.[2] The present note contains a summary of the contributions by other agencies that are not taking part in the dialogue under item 6. The full text of these contributions has been posted on the website of the Permanent Forum.

II. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean[3]

3. ECLAC reported on its progress towards the implementation of the recommendations issued by the Permanent Forum in 2008. Main activities in this regard have focused on the disaggregation by ethnicity in data sources to better reflect the situation of indigenous peoples; the conduct of studies about indigenous peoples' rights and living conditions, in particular the sexual and reproductive health of indigenous women; and the provision of technical advisory support to States for the introduction and analysis of information on indigenous peoples in their national statistics systems. ECLAC has also carried out technical studies on policy recommendations and has organized international seminars and training workshops on the use of statistical information.

[1] E/C.19/2009/7; E/C.10/2009/8; E/C.19/2009/9.

[2] E/C.19/2009/3 and Add.1-6.

[3] http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/ECLAC_report_8th_session_es.pdf.

III. Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity[4]

4. The secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity remains committed to the effective participation of indigenous and local communities in all meetings of relevance to them through the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations and through local community participation in meetings held under the Convention. The parties to the Convention have also recognized the importance of the participation of indigenous and local communities in meetings on access and benefit-sharing, article 8 (j) and related provisions of the Convention.

5. The secretariat of the Convention continues to cooperate with the secretariat of the Permanent Forum, as well as with other relevant organizations and indigenous women's groups to ensure that their perspectives and strategies are taken into account in the work on traditional knowledge and that capacity-building efforts target indigenous women.

6. A unique opportunity also exists for highlighting the important contributions made by indigenous and local communities to the International Year of Biological Diversity, in 2010. As part of the International Year, alternative means to disseminate public information on traditional knowledge[5] will be developed, including uncomplicated and diverse community-friendly media, such as video, television, audio for community radio, songs, posters, theatre/drama and film. This is designed to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, including women and youth, at the local, national and international levels, while also helping indigenous and local communities to develop their own media tools.

7. It has been noted that it is unclear as to whether some of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum are addressed to the parties or to the secretariat of the Convention. It would be helpful if it could be clarified whether the process relating to the recommendations to the parties is different from that applied to the secretariat of the Convention.

IV. United Nations Institute for Training and Research[6]

8. Since 2000, UNITAR has been providing training on negotiation techniques and on mediation to representatives of indigenous peoples through its programme on peacemaking and conflict prevention. The training programme was developed in response to requests by indigenous peoples and following the recommendations of United Nations special rapporteurs who requested advanced training in conflict analysis and negotiation for indigenous peoples.

9. UNITAR training programmes focus on strengthening negotiation skills that would allow indigenous peoples to negotiate effectively in development processes and other issues that affect their communities, as well as to engage in dialogue regarding their priorities. Since conflict over land and resources and marginalization from political and economic processes are among the many challenges that

[4] http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/SCBD_report_8th_session_en.pdf.

[5] Global Initiative on Biological Diversity Public Education and Public Awareness on CEPA and the clearing-house mechanism.

[6] http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/UNITAR_report_8th_session_en.pdf.

indigenous peoples face, most case studies and negotiation simulations in the training focus particularly on these issues. The training programme reviews both rights-based and problem-solving negotiation processes to strengthen the capacity of indigenous peoples to analyse root causes of conflict and engage in constructive dialogue with Governments, the private sector and other communities in order to resolve conflict in a mutually beneficial and sustainable manner. UNITAR actively seeks the participation and contribution of indigenous women in each training programme, both as resource persons and as participants.

V. International Organization for Migration[7]

10. IOM is cooperating with indigenous peoples, Governments and partner organizations to develop and implement culturally appropriate projects that respond to the particular needs of indigenous peoples. IOM has an established presence in nearly every country with more than 300 field offices globally. In Asia, IOM co-chairs, with ESCAP, the United Nations regional thematic working group on international migration, including human trafficking. In Latin America, IOM is working in partnership with indigenous peoples' organizations, relevant civil society organizations, United Nations agencies and Governments on various projects, including the development of guidelines to assist indigenous victims of trafficking and the issuance of publications on different migration topics.

11. IOM also works in partnership with United Nations agencies on projects in border areas that focus on indigenous peoples. A programme on integrated municipal development includes the building of productive and social infrastructure projects aimed at improving the health and human development of migrant indigenous workers. Programmes to increase awareness on avian and human influenza also focus on indigenous peoples living in border areas. In 2008, IOM collaborated with USAID, UNHCR and the Presidential Agency for Social Action and International Cooperation (Acción Social) on the project entitled "Legal protection of internally displaced persons and their property in Colombia", which places a special emphasis on the protection of indigenous peoples' territories.

VI. Department of Public Information[8]

12. The Department of Public Information has assisted with the promotion of events and has made information materials (written, audio-visual and online) available on issues such as urban migration, climate change, indigenous women and youth, languages, lands, territories, natural resources and reconciliation between indigenous peoples and States. Materials used include fact sheets, brochures, radio and television features and news interviews.

13. The Department has also assisted with the promotion of events and has produced information materials (written, audio-visual and online) related to the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, including the printing of a poster designed by an indigenous artist to commemorate the Decade, which was distributed worldwide through the Department's offices. The Department

[7] http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/IOM_report_8th_session_en.pdf.

[8] http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DPI_report_8th_session_en.pdf.

also produced a booklet containing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the World's Indigenous Peoples. In addition, the Department has field offices in all seven Permanent Forum regions, where activities have included the translation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the sponsoring of events related to the International Day of the World's Indigenous People.

VII. Department of Political Affairs[9]

14. The Department of Political Affairs has identified the coordination and exchange of information with other parts of the United Nations system working on indigenous issues as central to its analytical work. The Americas Division has established the practice of meeting regularly with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people. The Department is also planning to meet with members of the Permanent Forum during the eighth session.

15. Throughout 2008 and early 2009, the Department of Political Affairs addressed indigenous issues in a number of ways, including support for the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Bolivia, who represented the United Nations during the referendum on the new Bolivian Constitution on 25 January 2009. The Department's Americas Division also participated in a workshop on "Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights: Rights to Lands and Territories", held in Buenos Aires, from 5 to 7 December 2008. In addition, the Electoral Assistance Office of the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) provided support to the Electoral Commission of Nepal in various areas, in particular legal advice on the electoral law, including the suggestion of quotas to ensure the representation of women and minorities, which required the political parties to nominate minority candidates from certain communities in the party list proportional to their number in the census. UNMIN also assisted in the development of nomination and selection procedures to enable political parties to meet the required quotas. This resulted in the highest number of marginalized groups, including indigenous peoples, ever represented in an elected body in Nepal. In 2009 the Department nominated a focal point on indigenous issues.

VIII. World Food Programme[10]

16. While WFP does not have specific programmes for indigenous peoples, unless it is dealing with food security issues, several of its programmes have included indigenous peoples because of their food security status. In October 2008, WFP was part of an inter-agency group that organized a seminar on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples for South American countries. In 2007 and 2008, WFP projects reached over 220,000 indigenous peoples in Peru (75 per cent of total beneficiaries) and 570,000 in Bolivia (80 per cent of total beneficiaries). During 2009, WFP will be involved in a series of information-sharing meetings with indigenous peoples.

[9] http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DPA_report_8th_session_en.pdf.

[10] http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/WFP_report_8th_session_en.pdf.

IX. United Nations Human Settlements Programme[11]

17. UN-Habitat reported on one of its main tasks, namely addressing indigenous peoples and urban indigenous issues. In March 2007, the Government of Canada sponsored an expert group meeting on urban indigenous peoples and migration in Santiago. This meeting, convened by UN-Habitat and OHCHR, was jointly organized by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum and the Latin America and the Caribbean Demographic Centre (CELADE/ECLAC) with the support of IOM. The overall goal of the expert group meeting was to contribute to improving the living conditions of urban indigenous peoples and the realization of their human rights. The report of the expert group meeting was submitted to the sixth session of the Permanent Forum, and a publication containing a full account of the meeting is available on the websites of UN-HABITAT and other participating organizations.[12]

18. As a direct follow-up to the expert group meeting and as requested by the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues, UN-Habitat and OHCHR, under the United Nations Housing Rights Programme and through the Inter-Agency Support Group, are coordinating the elaboration of policy guidelines for Governments and local authorities to assist in the development of public policies related to the challenges faced by indigenous peoples in cities.[13] The proposed policy guides relate to the issues of employment and local economic development, education, health, transition/settlement services, cultural and linguistic continuity, identities, ethnic mobility, human security (particularly for indigenous women and youth) and housing.

19. At its seventh session, the Permanent Forum recommended that urban indigenous issues be given important consideration at the fourth session of the World Urban Forum, held in Nanjing, China, in November 2008, and welcomed the policy guidelines initiative. The draft policy guidelines on indigenous peoples' housing was introduced and discussed at the fourth session of the World Urban Forum. A further meeting on the status of the policy guidelines on urban indigenous peoples' issues will be held in a parallel session to the Aboriginal Policy Research Conference, in Ottawa, in March 2009.

X. United Nations Development Fund for Women[14]

20. UNIFEM has a dual mandate: to provide innovative and catalytic programming and financial support to countries in order to achieve gender equality in line with their national priorities and to strengthen action on gender equality across the United Nations development cooperation system.[15]

21. Integrating the rights of indigenous women is fundamental to UNIFEM, and the development of projects and programmes that respond to indigenous women's issues is a priority in its agenda. UNIFEM has been working to advance indigenous

[11] http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/UN-HABITAT_report_8th_session_en.pdf.

[12] "Urban Indigenous Peoples and Migration: Report and full account of the International Expert Group Meeting, 27-29 March 2007, Santiago, Chile" can be downloaded from the website of the Permanent Forum, http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/, or from www.unhabitat.org/unhrp.

[13] E/C.19/2008/6, para. 28.

[14] http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/UNIFEM_report_8th_session_en.pdf.

[15] General Assembly resolution 39/125.

women's rights by means of existing internal processes and innovative initiatives among indigenous communities. The approach of UNIFEM includes four primary areas of work: (a) working to combat violence against women in indigenous communities (for example, consciousness-raising on violence against women among community leaders in Bolivia and Ecuador implementing informal indigenous justice systems); (b) supporting the participation of indigenous women in decision-making (for example, during the constituent assembly process in Ecuador, UNIFEM supported a proposal by an alliance of indigenous women to improve indigenous women's access to justice); (c) ensuring indigenous women's access to justice (for example, support to three pilot initiatives to improve indigenous women's access to justice); and (d) strengthening indigenous women's organizations to work for a common agenda and influence decision-making and public policy. For example, as part of its endeavour to strengthen indigenous women's organizations, UNIFEM supported the participation of indigenous women at the Internal Forum of Indigenous Women, held in Lima in April 2008, which was attended by more than 250 indigenous women from 20 Latin American countries.

XI. International Labour Organization[16]

22. ILO has reported on a number of projects and programmes addressing indigenous issues as well as on its ongoing work to support the implementation of Convention No. 169. ILO has worked towards the inclusion of indigenous peoples' rights in poverty reduction strategy papers through capacity-building and national-level programmes. Through its programme to promote ILO policy on indigenous and tribal peoples, ILO has addressed the development of indicators relevant to indigenous peoples and has produced and disseminated a series of studies and publications on the implementation of Convention No. 169. Capacity-building constitutes another key element of the programme, and during 2008, training activities were organized at national, regional and headquarters levels. In terms of national level efforts to promote the rights of indigenous peoples, ILO reported on initiatives in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Cameroon, Indonesia, Kenya, Namibia and Nepal.

XII. Inter-American Development Bank[17]

23. IADB is guided by its two main strategies — namely, the strategy for sustainable economic growth and the strategy for poverty reduction and promotion of social equity — in its work with 26 Latin American countries to help overcome the challenges they face in their national development processes.

24. In 2008, IADB launched a long-term indigenous entrepreneurship programme and a study was carried out in nine countries in Latin America on the topic of indigenous peoples and business. The study concluded that the development potential of indigenous peoples is constrained due to a situation of exclusion and lack of financial services. It was recommended that the Bank provide Governments with adequate social, cultural and economic schemes. A further study was conducted

[16] http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/ILO_report_8th_session_en.pdf.

[17] http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/IDB_report_8th_session_en.pdf.

on land privatization, titling and indigenous peoples in Latin America, focusing in Peru, Bolivia, Honduras and Mexico, and it was recommended that IADB should review the paradigms and schemes of indigenous common land privatization.

25. IADB, through its programme for the support of women's leadership and representation with a targeted focus on indigenous women, has supported programmes on capacity-building and indigenous women's leadership in Latin American countries. In Panama, IADB is supporting rural electricity programmes for Comarca Kuna Yala communities with a focus on social, cultural and gender perspectives.

United Nations E/C.19/2009/11

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
13 March 2009

Original: English

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Eighth Session
New York, 18-29 May 2009
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum

Report of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues

Submitted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization**

Summary

The 2008 meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues, held in Paris from 15 to 17 September 2008, was convened and hosted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. The main theme of the meeting was "indigenous peoples: development with culture and identity".

* E/C.19/2009/1

** Submission of the present report was delayed in order to ensure the inclusion of the most recent information.

09-26567 (E) 070409

Contents

		Paragraphs	P
I.	Introduction	1–8	
	A. Meeting objectives	1	
	B. Participants	2	
	C. Official opening	3–5	
	D. Round table: Development with culture and identity in the light of the 2007 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples	6–7	
	E. Themes and organization of work	8	
II.	Main points and recommendations	9–50	
	Theme 1. Indigenous peoples: development with culture and identity	9–18	
	Theme 2. Joint United Nations action in support of indigenous peoples' issues at the regional and country levels	19–34	
	Theme 3. Contribution of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues to the work of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues	35–50	
III.	Concluding remarks	51–54	

Page
3
3
3
3
4
4
5
5
7
9
13

I. Introduction

A. Meeting objectives

1. The 2008 meeting of the United Nations Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues was convened and hosted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) from 15 to 17 September 2008, just one year after the historic adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007). The meeting had two main objectives: first, to deepen the reflection on indigenous peoples' concepts of development as captured by the term "development with culture and identity" with a view to preparing a joint inter-agency contribution to the ninth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, to be held in 2010, which will focus on this specific theme;[1] and second, to explore ways and means to reinforce joint United Nations action for the promotion of the rights and aspirations of indigenous peoples, notably at the regional and country levels. The Inter-Agency Support Group also discussed modalities to strengthen its support for the work of the Permanent Forum, including its contribution to the 2009 session.

B. Participants

2. A total of 23 agencies from the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies participated in the meeting, as well as three members of the Permanent Forum, namely Victoria Tauli-Corpuz (Chairperson), Margaret Lokawua and Carlos Mamani Condori (Vice-Chairperson). Senior management staff of UNESCO participated throughout the meeting. A detailed list of participants is available in conference room paper 3 presented to the Permanent Forum.

C. Official opening

3. The Director-General of UNESCO, Koïchiro Matsuura, inaugurated the Inter-Agency Support Group annual meeting in a public opening session and welcomed the Permanent Forum on the occasion of its first official visit to UNESCO. The Director-General emphasized that it was a great honour for UNESCO to chair the dynamic Group and he expressed his hope that the official visit of the Forum and the annual meeting of the Group would lead to new opportunities for dialogue and collaboration and deeper appreciation of indigenous world views and cultures.

4. The welcoming address was followed by a keynote address delivered by Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Chairperson of the Forum. She emphasized that since the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the mandate of the Forum had expanded to include the key task of implementing that important international instrument. She provided a larger picture of the global

[1] The full title of the ninth session is "Indigenous peoples' development with culture and identity: articles 3 and 23 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples". Article 3 states that indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development. Article 23 states that indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development.

environment and economic crisis today and explained that the dominant development paradigm was the main cause for the challenging situation. She highlighted a number of positive developments regarding indigenous peoples' rights in several countries since the adoption of the Declaration.

5. Two further statements were made. John Scott, from the secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity and outgoing Chairperson of the Inter-Agency Support Group, said that not only had the Group grown to become a committed and active body supporting indigenous peoples' rights and aspirations, but it could also be compared to a growing and mutually supportive "family". Julian Burger, from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) made a short intervention on the Declaration and mentioned how the Group was referred to in the United Nations system as a model of good practice, notably with regard to its rotating chair.

D. Round table
Development with culture and identity in the light of the 2007 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

6. The opening session was followed by a thematic round table to introduce the debate on the theme "indigenous peoples: development with culture and identity", which would be the focus of the ninth session of the Permanent Forum, to be held in New York in 2010. Speakers included the above-mentioned members of the Forum; H.E. Anaisabel Prera Flores, Ambassador of Guatemala to France and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO; and Darriann Riber of the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA). Two Inter-Agency Support Group members responded as discussants: Birgitte Feiring, Chief Technical Adviser, Programme to Promote Convention No. 169, International Labour Organization (ILO) and Katérina Stenou, Director, Division of Cultural Policies and Intercultural Dialogue, UNESCO focal point for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

7. A report on the thematic round table is provided in conference room paper 3 presented to the Permanent Forum.

E. Themes and organization of work

8. The Inter-Agency Support Group discussed the following agenda items: (a) Indigenous peoples: development with culture and identity; (b) Joint United Nations action in support of indigenous peoples' issues at the regional and country level; and (c) Contribution of the Inter-Agency Support Group to the work of the Permanent Forum. Each session was co-chaired by a senior member of the UNESCO staff and a member of the Group. In addition, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) organized a side meeting on the policy guide initiative on indigenous peoples in urban areas (see conference room paper 3 presented to the Permanent Forum).

II. Main points and recommendations

Theme 1
Indigenous peoples: development with culture and identity

9. The term "development with culture and identity" was suggested by the Permanent Forum and refers to a concept of development as proposed by indigenous peoples. It takes the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as its main reference, in particular article 3 on the right to self-determination and article 23 on the right of indigenous peoples to development in accordance with their own aspirations, needs and interests. The Inter-Agency Support Group discussed the theme and initiated preparation of a joint contribution for the ninth session of the Permanent Forum, which would address the theme.

Sharing reflections and experiences

10. A number of points can be highlighted from the reflections on the thematic round table. The Permanent Forum members emphasized that the notion of development with culture and identity called for a revision of the dominant development paradigm. With reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, they explained that for indigenous peoples the notion of self-determined development was central to pursuing the future aspirations of their communities. In fact, development with culture and identity implied a rights-based approach and was highly relevant to current debates on human rights, specifically cultural rights and cultural diversity. Linking those debates could, as some participants argued, further frame the development with culture and identity approach. Both individual and collective rights needed to be considered.

11. Participants commented on the key role and contributions of UNESCO in advancing the debate on culture and development, notably by bringing into discussion linkages with cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue which were underlined in the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (2001) and related conventions. Some participants questioned the usefulness of the term "development", arguing that so far development paradigms did not seem to have contributed convincingly to improving the life and dignity of many people and they warned about the dangers of a single model of development. However, the Inter-Agency Support Group agreed that since those terms were used in policy and development strategies it was important to engage in that discourse and decision-making process, while raising critical questions and listening to alternative visions.

12. Some participants felt that within the United Nations system different interpretations of development co-existed. It could be insightful for United Nations agencies to analyse the notions of development as used in their respective organizations and relate them to the notion of development with culture and identity. From a more pragmatic perspective, participants agreed that in order to support indigenous visions of development, United Nations agencies should, in particular, explore the implications of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples for their own policies and programmes, and take action accordingly. They emphasized the key role of participatory and consultative processes as an indispensable means of translating indigenous peoples' rights into concrete policy proposals.

13. The importance of understanding local contexts in the design and implementation of development interventions was emphasized, notably by applying cultural diversity perspectives and facilitating intercultural dialogue between planners and all those concerned by the intervention.

14. The Group strongly agreed that there was a need to further involve Governments alongside indigenous peoples in the design and implementation of the policies and programming of United Nations agencies in support of development with culture and identity. Forum members suggested that linkages between economic development and development with culture and identity should be further explored, notably in the context of the 2009 session of the Permanent Forum, which would discuss advances made regarding the social and economic development of indigenous peoples.

15. A number of Inter-Agency Support Group members shared examples of how their organizations attempt to support development with culture and identity through concrete projects with indigenous communities. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) presented its Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) its intercultural perspectives and approaches in the area of reproductive health, the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) its Operational Policy on Indigenous Peoples and Strategy for Indigenous Development, and UNESCO and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) the work carried out under the Thematic Window on Culture and Development as part of the Spanish Millennium Development Goal Achievement Fund. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) referred to its cultural documentation and indigenous peoples' management training programme for communities. A number of points emerged from these presentations and the subsequent discussions, including the following:

(a) The need to work at all levels, globally, regionally and locally, involving and confronting perspectives of all stakeholders, namely, indigenous communities, governments, bilateral agencies, the United Nations, and others;

(b) The importance of having indigenous peoples represented on programme boards and mechanisms;

(c) The need for a deeper understanding of local realities by all stakeholders involved in a project as a prerequisite for designing culturally adequate strategies and the role of intercultural dialogue in this regard;

(d) The need for methodologies to create a sense of joint ownership for development interventions between Governments and indigenous communities, with regard, for example, to equity funds and participation of indigenous peoples on boards.

Towards a joint Inter-Agency Support Group paper on development with culture and identity for the 2010 session of the Permanent Forum

16. The Group agreed to work on a joint reflection paper on the concept and practices of development with culture and identity as they related to United Nations work with indigenous peoples. The paper could then be presented to the Permanent Forum at its ninth session, in 2010, which would focus on that theme.

17. The following seven elements were proposed in order to structure the initial draft of the paper: (a) an analysis of United Nations discourse on notions of culture and development in the light of indigenous peoples' perspectives; (b) implications of the new post-Declaration normative environment and how various United Nations legal instruments can support the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; (c) implications of development with culture and identity at the level of concrete United Nations interventions; (d) contextual constraints on the United Nations when providing development assistance, notably external factors; (e) processes and practices of consultation and participation of indigenous peoples; (f) financial implications; and (g) recommendations and guiding principles to further develop the concept and practice of development with culture and identity.

18. UNESCO will coordinate the elaboration of the paper, while Inter-Agency Support Group members will contribute to the process by drafting outlines for specific sections and providing input to others. UNESCO will contact Group members with more details about the joint elaboration process.

Theme 2
Joint United Nations action in support of indigenous peoples' issues at the regional and country levels

19. A recent outcome of Inter-Agency Support Group collaboration has been the joint elaboration of guidelines to orient United Nations country teams in their work on promoting the rights and aspirations of indigenous peoples. The United Nations Development Group guidelines on indigenous peoples' issues were adopted by the United Nations Development Group in 2008. Since then a plan of action for the roll-out and implementation of the guidelines has been developed and a corresponding management committee put in place. It is composed of ILO, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the secretariat of the Permanent Forum, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, and UNICEF, which will report once a year to the United Nations Development Group.

20. OHCHR presented a project idea entitled "Working together on indigenous peoples' rights: a One UN project" that could be implemented within the One UN framework by all the participants of the Inter-Agency Support Group. There was general agreement on the merit of such a project from the Group, which suggested that it could focus on capacity-building at the country level and adopt a bottom-up approach, taking into account the perspectives and concerns of country offices.

21. The session then discussed three issues, focusing on sharing information and experiences on how to convert guidelines into successful practice.

Capacity-building at the regional and country levels

22. Capacity-building is a central component of the action plan. In this regard, the secretariat of the Permanent Forum, together with various agencies, developed a resource kit on indigenous peoples' issues and a Training module on indigenous peoples' issues to be used widely. The Permanent Forum, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, ILO, UNICEF, UNDP and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) shared information on their

experiences and plans regarding training on indigenous peoples' rights and issues, agreeing that all stakeholders have to be involved in such training.

Consultation and participation mechanisms

23. A number of organizations provided examples of consultative processes for engaging with indigenous communities at the regional and country levels, notably UNICEF on its consultative group of indigenous leaders and UNDP on planned consultations with indigenous communities in Latin American countries. WIPO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provided examples of successful institutionalized participation mechanisms put in place by their organizations.

24. The discussion evolved around the difference between consultation and participation, including the advantages and disadvantages of formalized mechanisms as opposed to more flexible dialogue with indigenous communities, the question of who are the appropriate and/or legitimate representatives of indigenous communities and who should be engaged in consultation or participation processes, as well as financial implications.

25. The Inter-Agency Support Group emphasized the great importance of such processes, since they might indeed lead to critical adjustments to projects or activities. They would have to be context specific.

Communication and advocacy

26. The Inter-Agency Support Group noted the importance of improved communication between the various agencies of the Group on indigenous peoples' issues, but also with Governments, notably within the framework of joint United Nations/United Nations Development Assistance Framework processes. All agencies confirmed the importance of country ownership and Government involvement at all stages of United Nations policy and programming regarding indigenous peoples, as well as with the indigenous communities concerned by a development programme.

Recommendations for follow-up on joint United Nations action at the regional and country levels

27. The Inter-Agency Support Group reiterated its commitment to further implement the plan of action for the roll-out and implementation of the United Nations Development Group guidelines on indigenous peoples' issues. In the light of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on the guidelines in paragraphs 61 and 103 of the Forum's report on its seventh session (E/2008/43), the Group will consider pursuing relevant editing of the guidelines through the appropriate procedures.

28. The Group shall reinforce capacity development efforts for all partners at the country level (indigenous peoples, Governments, donors and others), on the basis of a bottom-up, country-driven approach.

29. The members of the Group shall proactively pursue mechanisms for inviting country-level interest in such joint projects. The Group suggested that those joint projects might focus not only on countries but also on specific communities.

30. The Group requested that the secretariat of the Permanent Forum share existing information on consultations with and participation of indigenous peoples.

31. OHCHR shall share with the Group a revised consolidated project proposal entitled "Working together on indigenous peoples' rights: a One UN project".

32. The Group, notably the secretariat of the Forum, shall take steps to ensure better communication between the various members of the Group, notably by the possible creation of an online workspace for sharing experiences and strategies.

33. The Group shall explore the possible establishment of inter-agency mechanisms similar to the Group at the regional level, starting with Latin America, in order to ensure further coordination and communication between the various players.

34. United Nations agencies shall look for opportunities to raise awareness and strengthen their presence and involvement with regard to indigenous peoples' issues in the Pacific region.

Theme 3
Contribution of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues to the work of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

35. The Group discussed the status of the implementation of the recommendations addressed to it by the Permanent Forum over the past years, the new method of work of the Forum, and the items on the agenda of the eighth session of the Forum, as well a number of other pending issues.

Status of the implementation of recommendations addressed to the Inter-Agency Support Group by the Permanent Forum

36. Most recommendations addressed to the Inter-Agency Support Group between the second and the sixth sessions of the Permanent Forum have been implemented or are under implementation. Specific information was provided on four that were slow in starting: the promotion of the cross-cutting issue of children and youth; the participation of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in the Group; a Group workshop on policies and best practices for engaging indigenous youth and children in the prevention of suicide among them; and a technical review of international standards on the protection of traditional knowledge. The agencies concerned shared information and future plans for implementation.

New method of work for the eighth session of the Permanent Forum

37. The new method of work for the eighth session of the Forum, notably the procedure of examining in depth the work of six United Nations agencies was discussed; UNDP, IFAD, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), OHCHR, UNICEF, as well as the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs volunteered to take part. The possibility of providing short statements would continue to be offered for all participating agencies. The modalities to best facilitate the new procedure still had to be determined, and a

number of observations and suggestions were made for the consideration of the secretariat of the Permanent Forum.

Themes for the eighth session of the Permanent Forum (2009)

38. The Inter-Agency Support Group provided feedback on the four themes of the upcoming 2009 session of the Permanent Forum.

Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People: observations and recommendations for follow-up

39. Regarding the mid-decade review, Member States asked the secretariat of the Permanent Forum to develop a flexible assessment modality that would take into account the new momentum and challenges created by the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Group made a number of observations and suggestions for consideration by the secretariat:

(a) Continue the annual reporting mechanism as part of the midterm review process;

(b) Use the adoption of the Declaration as an opportunity for broad mobilization to rejuvenate the Decade;

(c) Take stock of institutional changes and achievements in United Nations agencies and funds on the basis of the in-depth analysis of the six United Nations agencies, as well as the short contributions to be received from other agencies;

(d) Transfer institutional advancement to the ground level and provide, for example, a snapshot of a couple of countries comparing the situation of indigenous peoples and policies at the beginning of the First Decade and in the middle of the Second Decade.

Economic and social development of indigenous peoples: recommendation for follow-up

40. The secretariat of the Permanent Forum will elaborate an analytical document using inputs from various agencies. The Inter-Agency Support Group suggested that such an analysis should take into account linkages between development, culture and identity, and be disseminated widely in order to engage in dialogue with indigenous peoples.

Indigenous women and gender issues: observations and recommendations for follow-up

41. UNIFEM introduced the theme by recalling key recommendations on indigenous women formulated by the Permanent Forum at its third session, held in 2004.

42. The Inter-Agency Support Group members suggested that the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women should be contacted about the situation of indigenous women and girls.

43. The Group also agreed on the following:

(a) Agencies should develop programmes specifically targeted to indigenous women but should also seek to mainstream gender in all programmes;

(b) Indigenous women should be further integrated into United Nations internal processes, and the recruitment of indigenous women within United Nations agencies should be encouraged;

(c) The secretariat of the Permanent Forum could facilitate exchange of information on the policies and programmes of the various members of the Group on the issues of indigenous women;

(d) The Permanent Forum at its eighth session could consider addressing emerging issues, such as the impact of climate change on women; the relationships between gender, rights and intercultural dialogue; and gender diversity in indigenous communities.

Indigenous peoples in the Arctic and climate change: observations and recommendations for follow-up

44. Presentations by UNEP, UNESCO and the Permanent Forum and subsequent discussions led to the following suggestions and recommendations:

(a) Give further consideration to the impact of climate change on indigenous peoples and on the exploitation of resources in the Arctic;

(b) Ensure coherence between the climate change agenda (in particular in the perspective of the post-Kyoto negotiations) and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

(c) Further involve in the regional meetings promoted by the Permanent Forum organizations with a focus on climate change and not exclusively those specialized on indigenous issues;

(d) Take the opportunity presented by the report undertaken by OHCHR (following Human Rights Council resolution 7/23) on climate change and human rights to push important issues related to indigenous peoples onto the agenda of member States;

(e) Relevant agencies should actively participate in the half-day event on the Arctic at the eighth session of the Permanent Forum;

(f) Carry out studies on the coherence between climate change policies and the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Other issues

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: information and suggestions for follow-up

45. OHCHR briefed the members of the group on the outcomes of the workshop on implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in their policies and programmes. The following suggestions were made:

(a) Promote ratification of ILO Convention (No. 169) concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries;

(b) Provide wider visibility for the Declaration by making it available in all languages including indigenous languages;

(c) Chart out a list of good practices in each field of the Declaration, reviewing related policies within the organizations concerned;

(d) Further integrate indigenous issues in the strategic planning of organizations;

(e) Design training programmes for indigenous peoples;

(f) Involve indigenous peoples in country programme development, notably through recruitment of indigenous professionals in the United Nations system.

46. OHCHR briefed the Group on recent human rights developments of relevance to indigenous peoples' issues, notably the launching of the new universal periodic review, a review of the human rights records of United Nations Member States once every four years. Inter-Agency Support Group members were encouraged to share relevant information with OHCHR as appropriate.

Indicators of indigenous peoples' well-being, poverty and sustainability

47. The Group had a short discussion in preparation for an international technical workshop on indicators of indigenous peoples' well-being, poverty and sustainability to be convened by Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education) in collaboration with ILO, with funding from AECI (Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional), building on the 2004 report on data collection and disaggregation for indigenous peoples and the 2008 summary report on the meetings about indigenous peoples and indicators of well-being (E/C.19/2008/9).

48. The secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity shared information on indicators used to assess the implementation of the Convention with regard to traditional knowledge, and UNESCO shared information on the indicators of the status and trends of linguistic diversity and numbers of speakers of indigenous languages. ILO shared information on its work on traditional occupations and knowledge, as well as on monitoring of the implementation of indigenous peoples' rights; while UNICEF drew attention to its sociolinguistic atlas. The Permanent Forum informed the Group about ongoing consultations with the United Nations Statistical Commission, the only body that could certify indicators, which showed that there was the need for a simple and feasible data collection method that could be shared widely.

Employment for indigenous peoples in the United Nations

49. ILO announced that it was elaborating a concept note for a technical paper on the employment of indigenous women and men in the United Nations, which it was going to circulate among Inter-Agency Support Group members for comments. On that issue, OHCHR underlined the positive role of the Indigenous Fellowship Programme in promoting the employment of former indigenous fellows within United Nations agencies where they received training and encouraged Group members to consider the applications of former fellows for employment and consultancy opportunities. The secretariat of the Permanent Forum mentioned the database of indigenous professionals it had created in 2008 which was at the disposal of Group members.

Note on the situation in Bolivia

50. During its annual meeting, the Inter-Agency Support Group expressed great concern regarding the recent wave of violence in Bolivia. Permanent Forum member Carlos Mamani Condori provided some background on the situation. The Group expressed its hope that the situation would be resolved peacefully and quickly through effective dialogue and that all necessary steps would be taken to protect the human rights and freedoms of the affected indigenous peoples and their communities.

III. Concluding remarks

51. The Inter-Agency Support Group meeting concluded with an impressive record of issues and items covered to advance collective United Nations support to the Permanent Forum. These ranged from the challenging debate on the concept of development with culture and identity and the related programmatic options for supporting the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to more pragmatic consideration of concrete action to implement the United Nations Development Group guidelines at the regional and country levels and respond to the demands of specific thematic initiatives.

52. The Group meeting at UNESCO succeeded, in particular, in laying the groundwork for reflection on the theme of the ninth session of the Forum "Indigenous peoples: development with culture and identity" and the agreement to elaborate and present a joint reflection paper.

53. The Group expressed its sincere gratitude to UNESCO for hosting the 2008 annual meeting, and thanked in particular Katérina Stenou, who coordinates the contributions of UNESCO to the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People and her colleagues Susanne Schnuttgen, Culture Sector, and Douglas Nakashima, Science Sector, as well as all other colleagues for their warm welcome and efficiency in organizing this encounter. Participants reiterated their appreciation for the efforts made to involve the Director-General and senior staff members of UNESCO.

54. UNEP and UN-Habitat proposed that they host the 2009 annual meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group at Nairobi. The proposal was received with appreciation by all members of the Group.